

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1990

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 446,000
No 63,601

Pay demands threaten jobs says Thatcher

UK wages rising faster than competitors'

By Robin Oakley, Tim Jones, Kevin Eason and Richard Ford

The Prime Minister yesterday issued a stark warning that workers were pricing themselves out of jobs, as the Government sought to head off a succession of double-figure pay claims in the wake of the 10.2 per cent offer by Ford.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs that it was "very disturbing" that while wage costs in Britain had risen 6 per cent in the third quarter, those in the US had risen only 2 per cent and those in West Germany by only 1 per cent. Meanwhile, wage costs had decreased by 1 per cent in Japan, 3 per cent in France and 4 per cent in the Netherlands.

The Prime Minister declared: "If our wage costs rise faster than those of our competitors, our competitors will get the orders and the jobs. The movement of wage costs is very disturbing."

INSIDE

Powerboat swoop by Vickers

Control of Italy's Riva, powerboat-maker to the famous from the Aga Khan to Joan Collins, has been bought for £3.1 million by Vickers, owners of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Vickers, the marine engineering, armoured vehicles and aerospace manufacturer, is keen to replicate its success with Rolls-Royce by seizing a profitable share of the growing luxury boat market.

Riva, a family company for nearly a century and a half, claims to be Europe's premier manufacturer of luxury powerboats, many highly streamlined in fibreglass but also made of traditional mahogany.

Peking arrests

At least two people were detained by watchful Chinese police for "disrupting the peace" in Tiananmen Square, marking the full opening of martial law.

Listeria alert

Fears about the growing threat of food poisoning have led the Commons social services committee to call on the Government to make listeria a notifiable disease.

Accountancy examinations

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' exam results will be published in tomorrow's Times. Copies of the paper will be available from 10pm tonight at Victoria and King's Cross stations, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus.

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Soviet leader takes his case to the people



Street debater: A forceful President Gorbachov yesterday engaging in exchanges with residents of Vilnius, the capital, about Lithuania's rift with Moscow.

Gorbachov puts his fate in Lithuania's hands

By Nick Worrall in Vilnius and Mary Dejevsky in London

More than 300,000 people — nearly a tenth of Lithuania's population — stood in silent protest in the centre of the capital Vilnius yesterday to impress on President Gorbachov their demand for the republic to become independent from Moscow.

He said his personal fate depended on the success of his policy in the country's restive outlying republics.

"Nothing will be decided without you. We shall decide everything together," Mr Gorbachov pledged as he mingled with local residents.

"We have embarked on this path and I am the one who chose it. My personal fate is linked to this choice," he said.

Whole families, many with children held up as symbols of the republic's future, crowded into the main square in central Vilnius.

Mr Justas-Vincas Paleckis, the local Communist Party ideology chief, said that for centuries Lithuania was a toy in other people's hands. "Now we can say it has ceased being a toy and decides its own fate. No one can stop our march to independence."

After the speeches, Mr Landsbergis declared 15 minutes' silence. "Let us be silent until we hear the bells of the cathedral toll," he said. "Let us be silent with one thought and one wish. We are a free people. We will create a free Lithuania." When the cathedral bells rang out, the choir of the Lithuanian academy of sciences sang the national anthem, "Lithuania land of heroes".

Mr Gorbachov, who arrived Continued on page 22, col 5

How healthy are you?

THE TIMES GUIDE TO HEALTHY LIVING

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- How important is sex and a happy relationship to your health?

● Put yourself on the right path in the 1990s with *The Times* Guide to Healthy Living all next week.

Eurotunnel crisis averted

By Our City Staff

The threat to the Channel tunnel has evaporated after leaders of the 208 banks backing the project agreed to lend Eurotunnel up to £400 million so that work can continue beyond the end of the month.

UK base to be US intelligence centre

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

RAF Molesworth, the former cruise missile site in Cambridgeshire, is to be converted into an American wartime emergency headquarters and a special centre for US intelligence analysis, it was announced yesterday.

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Romania feels the cold since Ceausescu's death

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The three-week-old anti-communist revolution has affected every aspect of life in Romania, even down to the daily weather forecasts which were falsified under Ceausescu to dupe the population and foreign tourists.

Mr Mihai Barbolescu, a senior official at the National Meteorological Institute in Bucharest, spoke yesterday of how Romanian weather forecasters were given instructions from the Prime Minister's office never to let temperatures drop below minus 15C.

He said the order had been received in a telephone call from Mr Constantin Dascalu, the former Prime Minister, during the hard winter of 1985-1986 when the temperature was below minus 20C for two months. The telephone call was ordered by Ceausescu in an effort to reduce national discontent about the shortages of energy and heating fuel. The former Prime Minister also instructed EC aid pledge.

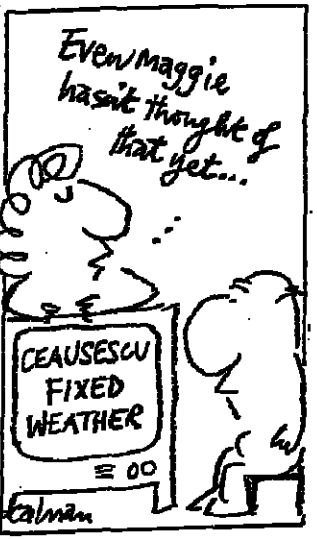
The forecasters to specify that the temperature was only minus 10C in certain regions.

Since the December revolution, orders to cover up weather conditions have been scrapped on instruction from the ruling National Salvation Front. This week, Romanians heard for the first time in years that actual temperatures in the capital were minus 21C.

Falsification of statistics did not only affect the winter figures. Mr Barbolescu also disclosed that during cold summers the Institute was instructed by the Ministry of Tourism to present false reports, claiming that the weather at Romania's Black Sea resorts was balmy, presenting perfect conditions for swimming and sunbathing, when in fact they were out of the question.

The revolutionary credentials of the nightly weather forecast now shown on Romanian television stretch beyond accurate reporting of conditions outside the studio. For the first time, the forecasters are able to give specific predictions for different regions.

The late dictator banned mention of all the names of Romania's regions, ordering forecasters to refer in general terms to the south, north, west and east.



Poll tax default may be three times rates loss

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Appeal for
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By Stewart Taylor
Crime Correspondent
Detectives investigating...
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MPs issue warning over listeria and support irradiation

By Sheila Gunn and Pearce Wright

Fears about the growing threat of food poisoning led to pressure on the Government yesterday to make listeria a notifiable disease and to support irradiation to combat food-borne infections.

Two reports from select committees of both Houses highlight the threat of listeria and other infections from modern methods of food production, processing and storage.

Their publication comes in the wake of the Commons agriculture committee report this week, which warned of the danger of eating eggs imported from countries without Britain's health controls.

The Commons social services committee called on doctors to be required to report all cases of listeria to health authorities.

Soft cheeses should be avoided by women who are even contemplating having a baby, particularly if they have had a miscarriage or stillbirth, it says.

Official figures estimate that one in 7,000 pregnant women loses her baby as a result of listeria - a total of more than 80 stillbirths or miscarriages a year in the UK.

In the cross-party committee's new report on listeria - its second in seven months - the committee stood by its earlier criticism that the Government should have warned pregnant women sooner about the risks of eating soft cheese.

The 124-page report from the House of Lords backs the Government's plans to allow the irradiation of food within the EC proposed limits to control the spread of listeria, salmonella and other food-borne infections.

However, the peers say it could be open to abuse by unscrupulous traders who might use irradiation to mask stale food. They call on the Government to delay allowing the sale of irradiated food in Britain until a Community-wide scheme is agreed.

The Government is proposing to lift the ban on irradiated food but wants it marked to give consumers the choice.

The peers, like the Government, make clear they have been influenced in support for irradiation by the rise in food poisoning outbreaks.

Public Health Laboratory surveys found that up to 60 per cent of all uncooked chicken carcasses in shops is contaminated to some extent by salmonella, and the same percentage by listeria.

In addition, listeria infects 12 per cent of pre-cooked, ready-to-eat poultry; 16 per cent of salami-type sausages; 50 per cent of raw pork sausages; and 10 per cent of soft cheeses on sale.

The peers conclude: "The committee consider that irradiation could help to raise standards of food safety and to protect public health. The increasing sophistication of systems of production and processing, whether on the farm or at the factory, shop and home, are not capable of guaranteeing the safety of food.

"Irradiation will certainly not do so either, but it can serve as a useful means of reducing the contamination of some foods by certain organisms."

However, they want urgent research into the effect of irradiation, particularly on vitamins and food exposed to pesticides.

The social services committee recommends making listeriosis a notifiable disease and tightening food hygiene.

High-risk ready-cooked foods and soft cheeses needing refrigeration in shops and the home should be stored at or below temperatures of 3°C, rather than the accepted standard of 5°C, it says.

Mr Frank Field, the committee chairman, said the latest investigation into listeriosis was conducted because the Government complained the committee had unfairly criticized officials over last year's salmonella and listeria food poisoning problems.

The committee stands by its earlier criticisms that "GPs and midwives could have played a more active part in the detection of listeriosis in their patients by being made more aware of the clinical details of the disease".



Mr Field: Second inquiry after government criticism.

Royal smile for watchers at the window

CHRIS HARRIS



Onlookers crane to catch a glimpse of the Princess of Wales as she arrives for a visit to the Thomas Coram Foundation's homeless children's project at Camden, north London, yesterday. The Princess later met 11 families at the West Hampstead hostel where they live until they can be found a home, and was presented by the children with some of their own paintings. The project, a mobile unit, offers support services to homeless families.

Governors oppose jail reshuffles

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs
Correspondent

An overhaul of the senior management of the prison service, announced by the Government yesterday, was received angrily by prison governors who have strenuously opposed the plans.

The Government plans to move the service's headquarters from London to the Midlands. Its four large regional offices will be replaced by more than 14 area offices.

In addition, three directorates, responsible for administration and devising policy ranging from security to sentence planning, will be set up at the headquarters.

The Home Office hopes the changes will ensure better liaison between governors and headquarters staff, particularly on policy issues.

The Prison Governors Association said, however, that the changes, first proposed last August, would pose "considerable potential dangers" to staff, inmates and the public.

In an emergency, such as a prison riot, a governor could be directed by managers with little or no operational experience.

The association voiced "deep regret" about the decision, announced by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, and predicted that the system, which is due to be implemented in September, would break down and revert to the regional structure.

Mr Waddington said he believed the "radical changes" would enable the service to build on the reforms achieved in prison officer work practices and planned improvements in the capacity and quality of the prison estate.

Parts of the probation service could be hived off to voluntary groups or the private sector as part of new government plans.

A Green Paper published next month will propose that Britain's 7,000 probation officers should become more punishment-orientated and efficient in the delivery of their services.

Doctor denied knowing of kidney payments

By John Young

The former president of the British Transplantation Society said yesterday that he had been assured by Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist, that he had not known of any payments being made to donors in transplant operations during 1988.

Mr Robert Ross-Taylor, consultant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, said that after adverse publicity in 1985 over reports of kidneys being offered for sale, the society had set up a committee to discuss the issues and what action to take. Dr Crockett is one of three doctors appearing before the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council facing charges of serious professional misconduct. The others are Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist. All three deny the charges.

Mr Ross-Taylor said that Dr Crockett was a member of the society and that he had spoken to him by telephone early last year when there was further publicity about the alleged sale of kidneys by donors from Turkey. Dr Crockett denied knowing that people were being paid. Mr Ross-Taylor said he did not know Mr Joyce but had known Mr Bewick for many years.

Mr Bewick had been a society member but had left. Mr Ross-Taylor felt that it was to the society's detriment not to have somebody of Mr Bewick's status as a member and in November 1988 nominated him for membership with Mr Bewick's agreement.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, asked Mr Ross-Taylor if he was able to form a judgment as to whether Mr Bewick was aware of the guidelines and principles of the society.

"I think it would be very reasonable to assume that he did know of them," Mr Ross-Taylor replied. He was sure that in the aftermath of the 1985 reports Mr Bewick was involved in the debate on ethics.

Mr Taylor was asked what responsibility rested upon the shoulders of a surgeon operating on a live transplant donor. He said a surgeon was required to ensure that every operation was properly carried out in every sense.

In turn the surgeon responsible for transplanting the organ into the recipient must ensure that the donor was not being coerced and that he was medically fit to be an organ donor.

The hearing continues today.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Breakfast-time cheer

The winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mrs Kathleen Garstang, of Chestnut Bois, near Amersham, in Buckinghamshire.

"I was surprised and delighted at the news, especially when we heard there were no other claimants," she said. "My son Simon, an A-level student, usually gets his calculator out and does the competition at the breakfast table."

He is to be rewarded with a special family holiday this summer, in between finishing his examinations and going on to university.

"We would like to visit Italy," his mother said. "But the two youngest members of the family are bidding for Disneyland, and we may be pestered into going there."

Bond puts 'Iris' on sale

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

Van Gogh's "Iris", the world's most expensive work of art, is up for sale "if the price is right".

Rumours of such a move have persisted for months as the business empire of Mr Alan Bond, the painting's owner, has crumbled. Confirmation came from Mr Michael Cross, managing director of Dalhousie Investment Ltd, which is owned by Mr Bond.

Speaking from Perth, Australia, Mr Cross said the painting, which fetched \$53.9 million (£30.2 million) in November 1987, is "not officially on the market" but "there is a preparedness at the right price to sell the painting". He added: "We have had several very serious offers and negotiations are continuing."

According to an eminent London Impressionist dealer there are "several interested parties, among whom are Japanese" and the price being discussed is about \$65 million. One candidate "got very close to buying just before Christmas" but the deal fell through because he believed he might "be making a fool of himself" and might "get it cheaper if he waited until later".

The value of the painting has crucial significance for the art market. Its sale to Mr Bond less than one month after the Wall Street crash of October 1987 was watched anxiously amid fears of a slump. Instead, the price set a dramatic new standard, causing relief and a continuing boom.

Towards the end of last year, however, it emerged that Mr Bond had not made an outright purchase, but that Sotheby's had given him a \$27 million loan, using the painting as collateral. The disclosure sparked fears that the price, and therefore the boom, was built on air.

Responding to widespread criticism of the arrangement, Sotheby's announced two modifications to its loans policy yesterday.

First, they will no longer accept as collateral any work of art which has not been fully owned for 90 days. Second, they plan to include notification in catalogues worldwide when they have guaranteed a price to the vendor - as occurred during the "Iris" sale.

A drawing by Goya of two starving men gorging on gruel doubled its estimate at Christie's in New York on Wednesday night, selling to a European dealer for \$715,000 (£430,722).

The work, entitled "Do those who escape work and up like this?", fetched three times the previous record for a drawing by the artist.

The auction had a high success rate, with only 6 per cent of its value unsold.

£1.5m swindle plot acquittal

By Michael Horswell

A former City financier was cleared yesterday of trying to swindle his wealthy great aunt out of shares worth up to £1.5 million.

Mr Justin Frewen, aged 30, who the Crown alleged forged a letter saying he had power of attorney over the shares, walked free after a four-day trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Mr Frewen, an Old Etonian and nephew of Lord Selby, said afterwards: "I am relieved and delighted."

The jury found him not guilty of conspiring with others between December 1988 and February 1989 to obtain from Barclays Bank duplicate certificates for shares using a power of attorney bearing the forged signature of his great aunt, Mrs Joan Lacon.

The jury was told that Mr Frewen, of Trouville Road, Clapham, south London, had been blackmailed by a forger to join a fraud plot.

London University faces £43m debt

By Sam Kiley
Higher Education Reporter

London University is facing a severe financial crisis. The debts of its 24 colleges will total £43 million next year and 15 colleges will be unable to clear their deficits within three years.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chief executive of the Universities Funding Council, has called for urgent talks with Lord Flowers, London University's vice-chancellor, after an independent assessment of the colleges' forecasts disclosed that the finances of eight gave "serious cause for concern" while a further seven were causing "concern".

Sir Peter said yesterday that London University colleges would have to cut spending sharply over the next two or three years. He said that he would be meeting Lord Flowers later this month to discuss the crisis although he emphasized that it would be up to the vice-chancellor and the college heads to decide how cuts should be made.

"I would not like to be the finance officer at any of the colleges causing concern," Sir Peter said.

Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, principal of the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, one of the institutions causing "serious concern", said that the finances had been knocked back by the costs of the merger between the Royal Holloway and the Bedford colleges and the "underfunded" salary settlement with academics last year.

Queen Mary College is also on the "serious" list, with a deficit of £200,000.

Professor Ian Butterworth, the principal, told The Times Higher Education Supplement that "we have already in the past made all the saving we can. It's the general London problem that we really have to talk about."

The principals of the London colleges and polytechnics have consistently argued for a boost to "London weighting", the supplements they get to their block grants from the funding councils to compensate for the increased costs of operating in the capital.

In addition, since the introduction of competitive price bidding for tuition fee allocations, designed by the funding council to keep costs down, London college fear that they will be further penalized for their location - and that expansion plans will be restricted.

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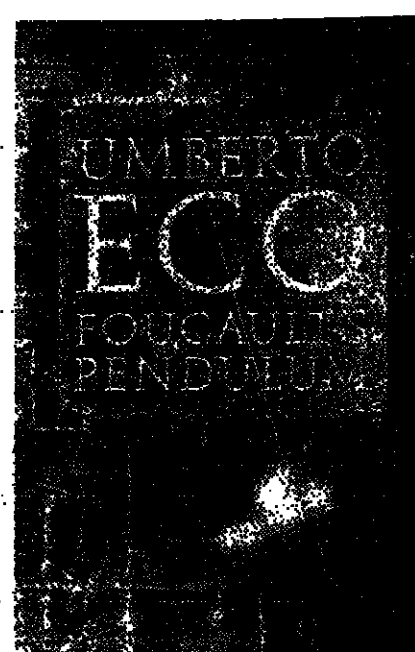
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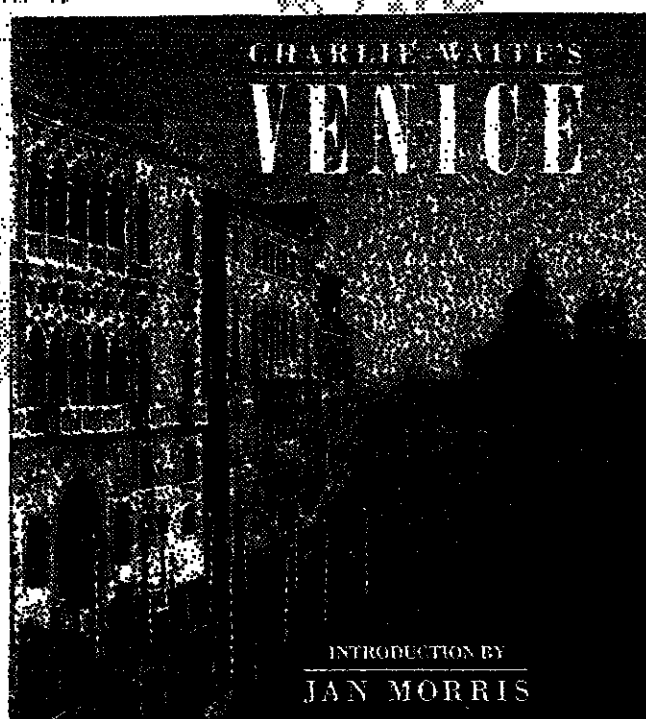


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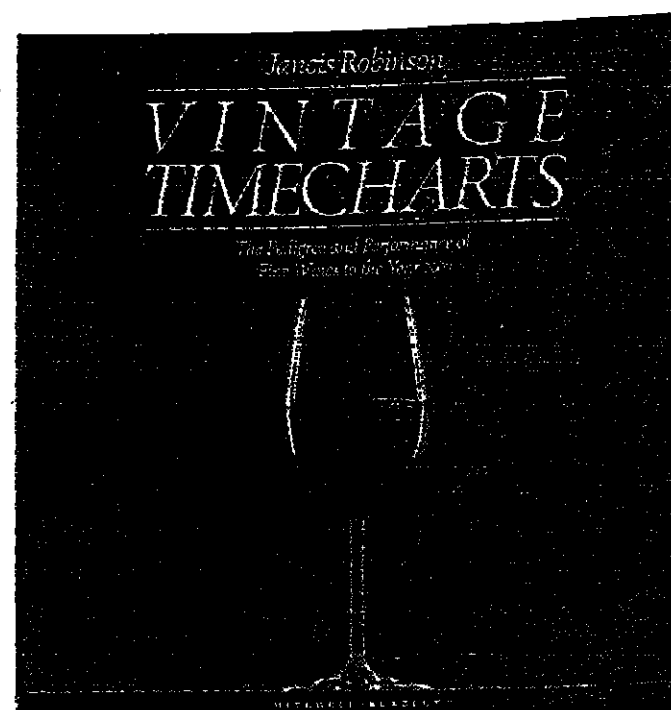
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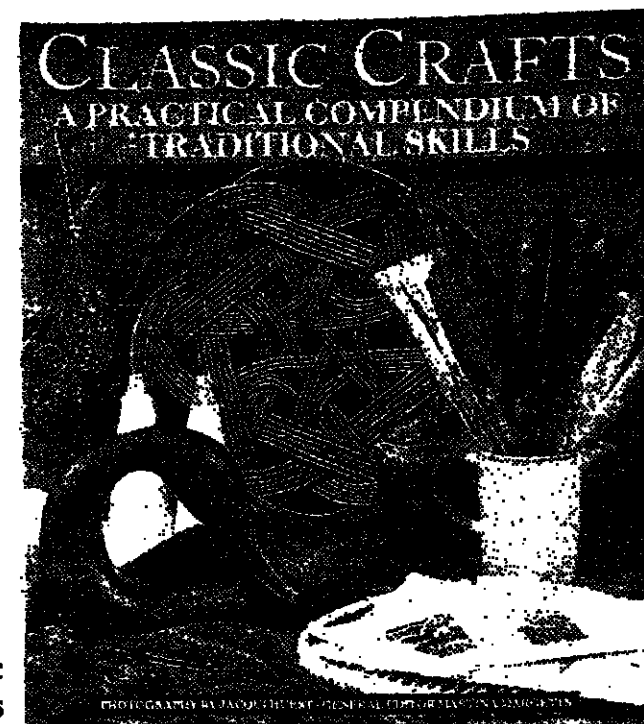
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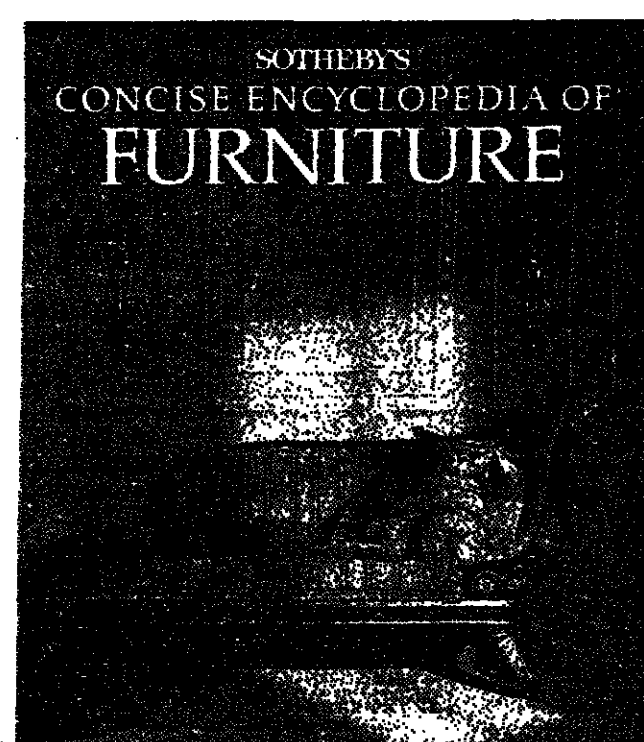


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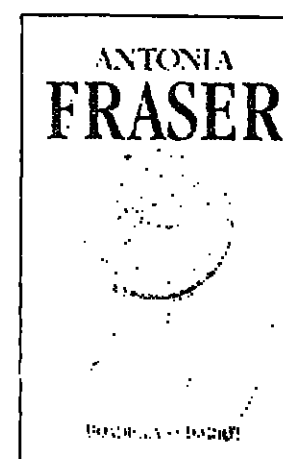
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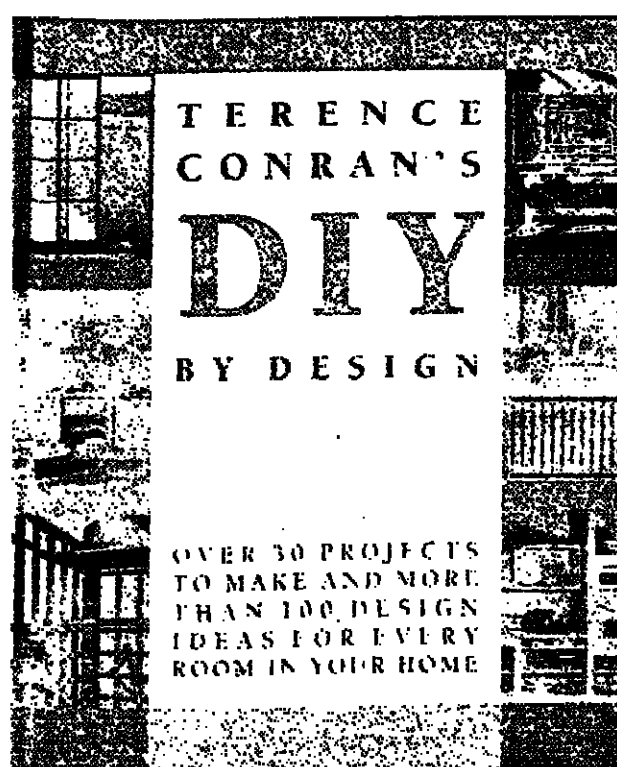
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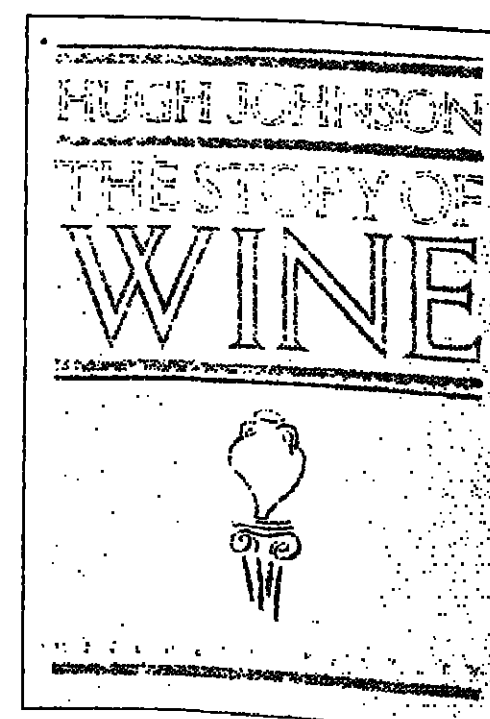
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EC laws 'flouted' to make motorists buy costly cars in UK

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

The gap in car prices between Britain and the rest of the European Community is widening with UK buyers paying up to a third more than motorists across the Channel.

Yet British consumers buying abroad are being penalized by manufacturers, distributors and even the authorities in breach of European law, according to the European Consumers' Union.

The organization is demanding action by the European Commission so that motorists can be guaranteed the right to buy cars anywhere within the Common Market.

A highly-critical report disclosed that far from achieving the EC objective of harmonizing car prices across the 12 member nations, the gap between Britain and the rest was growing.

The EC allows for a differential of up to 12 per cent between nations to allow for local market conditions. However, average pre-tax car prices are 31 per cent higher in Britain than in Belgium, compared with 19 per cent in 1987.

In Britain, half of new cars are bought by the company car fleet industry which pushes up

prices for higher specification models. A £12,500 Audi 80E cost about 43 per cent more than in Belgium.

The organization also found that a Citroen AX at £5,000 and a BMW 316, at £11,500 in the UK, were 38 per cent and 27 per cent more expensive.

The consumers' union, which screened 1,400 cars, said that manufacturers and distributors discouraged UK buyers from going abroad.

The report said some distributors would not honour warranties on imported cars. A number of dealers abroad, thought to be acting on the instructions of manufacturers, were refusing to sell models with right-hand drive to non-residents. They also imposed unreasonable delivery delays of up to a year and unjustifiable delivery costs.

The report accused public authorities, too, of imposing unfair delays in registering cars imported privately.

Singling out the UK, it said British car-licensing authorities repeatedly refused to register cars imported by professional "parallel" importers — companies outside official dealer networks helping in-

dividuals import cheaper cars. The consumers' organization said that Nissan and Isuzu in Britain had refused to honour guarantees on cars imported outside the dealer network.

Rover and Volkswagen were accused of refusing to sell cars in the Irish Republic for shipment on to Britain.

The European Court of Justice has declared itself in favour of private car imports and the commission has set out rules on the matter.

However, the report adds: "In spite of these community initiatives, consumers still encounter major problems when trying to benefit from the important price differences existing within the EC. Member states, as well as manufacturers and distributors, have introduced — entirely against the law — a wide range of obstacles to parallel imports."

Last night, Nissan dismissed claims that it would not fulfil warranty guarantees and said it would cover all guarantees for its customers. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said cars may look cheaper abroad but might not have the high specifications of UK models.

Cycle star heads home for city contests

ADRIAN BROOKS



The cycling star Joey McLaughlin does some forward planning for a series of races to be held in 10 British cities over the next three years. Scottish President, the life assurance company, has provided £2.5 million in a record sponsorship of the sport. McLaughlin, who won the Tour of Britain in 1987, has since competed on the Continental circuit. He says he is eager to return to racing in Britain, particularly in his home town of Liverpool. *Sport, page 36*

Sick notes

'Less liberal GPs could save £11m'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

At least £11 million could be saved every year if doctors were less liberal in handing out sick notes, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

A report from the Comptroller and Auditor General argues that 190,000 people are receiving invalidity benefit because doctors are unaware of the criteria for eligibility and often put too much weight on family and social circumstances.

The number receiving invalidity benefit, which is given after six months' sickness, has risen from 760,000 in 1983/84 to more than a million in 1987/88, it says.

The cost increased from £2.4 billion to £3.15 billion during the same period and is expected to exceed £4 billion this year.

The growth in expenditure reflected three trends: more go on to benefit than come off, and people are receiving it longer; the average age of recipients is increasing; and the proportion of married women on benefit is increasing.

"Evidence suggests that non-medical factors have contributed to this growth rather than any underlying increase in the incidence of sickness," the report says.

A 1 per cent drop in the number of people receiving the untaxed benefit would save almost £11 million a year, the report says.

The Audit Office emphasized that it was not trying to penalize the sick. Those entitled to invalidity benefit would get it. Those that were not, were likely to get other, admittedly less generous benefits, such as unemployment benefit or income support.

The basic rate of invalidity benefit is £43.60 a week, although additional payments can increase this to £60 or £100 a week.

To qualify, a person has to obtain a statement of incapacity to work in any job — a sick

note — from a GP. However, some GPs have interpreted the guidance as inability to work in the same job and have not considered whether the person could do alternative work. GPs are also more likely to give sick notes if the person is unemployed for reasons other than sickness.

The audit officials found "a degree of uncertainty" among GPs when deciding whether someone could work, and concluded that to a "significant extent" doctors were overlooking the requirement to consider capacity for other types of work.

A Gallup poll of 989 doctors by the Audit Office showed that only a third had refused to issue a sickness certificate in the last six months. Of the remainder, most had only rejected two or three.

Asked about their awareness of social security benefits,

6 Most doctors have no understanding of invalidity benefit

78 per cent said that they had little or no understanding of invalidity benefit. Among newly trained GPs, the figure rose to 93 per cent.

Many GPs did not know that invalidity benefit was more generous than unemployment benefit or realize that there were alternative benefits for the sick.

Almost half considered non-medical factors, such as loss of benefit if they refused the certificate, and a third considered family circumstances. Fourteen per cent considered the local employment situation as a factor in giving certificates.

The report recommends that the Department of Social Security should improve guidance and training to doctors.

National Audit Office Report on Invalidity Benefit (Stationery Office: £4.60)

Reforms will speed up damages cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Victims of accidents are likely to win awards of damages more swiftly as the result of a package of reforms to speed up civil court procedures published yesterday.

Under the new rules, more disputes are also likely to be settled out of court as litigants will be encouraged to be more open.

Courts will have tougher powers to impose costs penalties, where parties in a dispute unreasonably refuse to admit facts or disclose documents before trial.

There will be new, strict time limits for the serving of a writ, generally four months from the date of issue by the court, in place of the present 12-month limit.

The new rules, the first batch in a series of reforms to court procedures being brought by the Lord Chancellor's Department, implement recommendations of the Civil Justice Review Body in 1988.

From February 5, courts in personal injury cases will have wider powers to try the issue of liability — who is at fault — separately from the issue of damages.

That means that in many

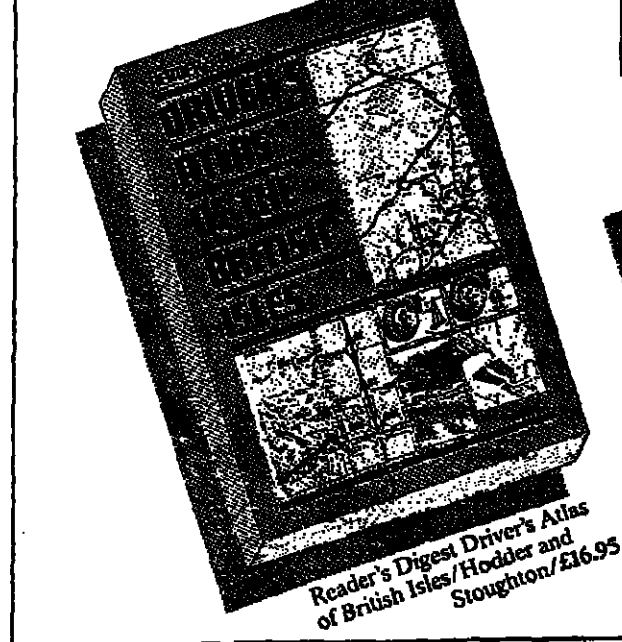
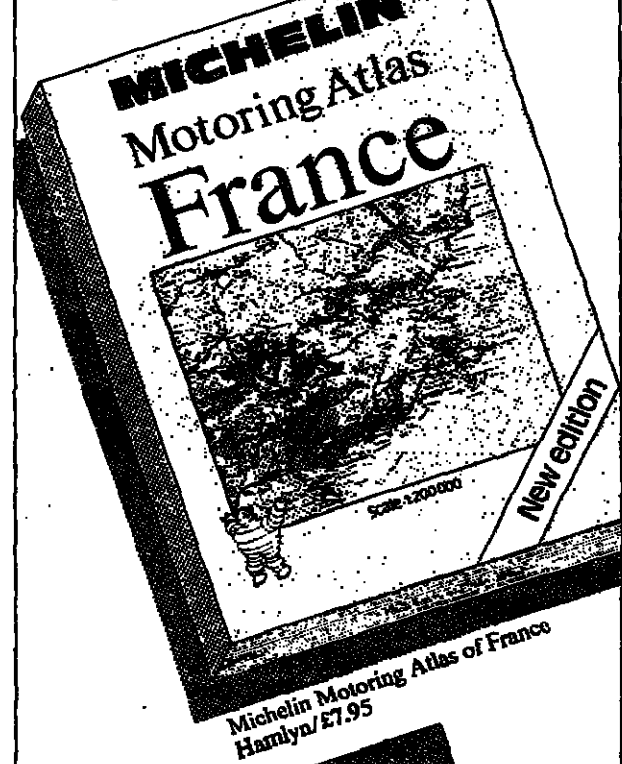
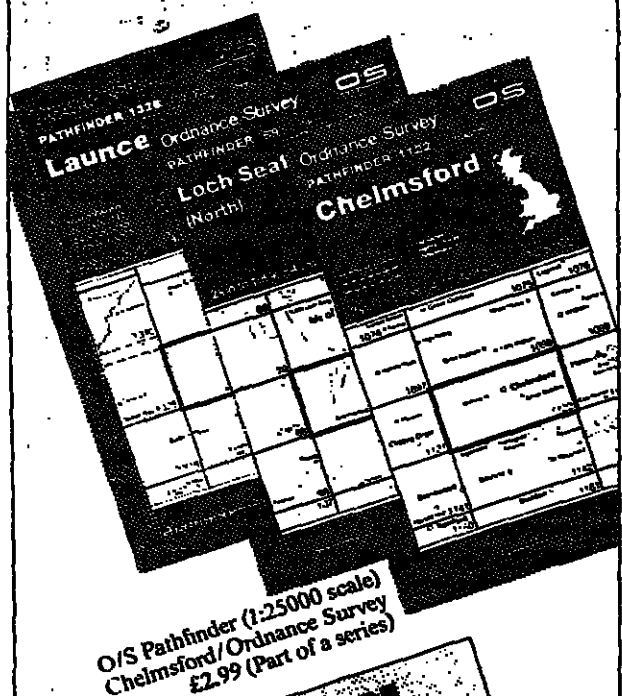
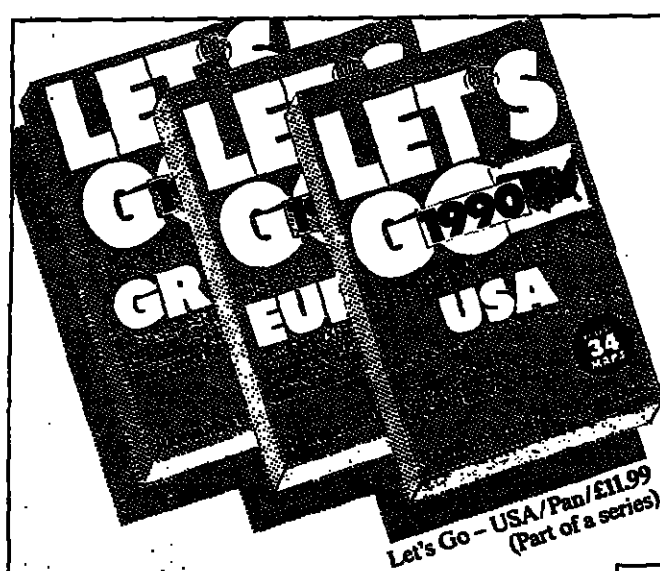
more cases, accident victims will not have to wait until their medical condition has stabilized before liability is decided and an award made.

At present, it is often several years after the injury before claimants receive their award of damages.

At the same time, county courts will now have the same power as the High Court to award provisional damages, where the full extent of the injury or illness is not yet known.

Lawyers acting for the families of victims of the Hillsborough disaster are pressing South Yorkshire police to increase the statutory amount of bereavement damages and to widen the categories of people to whom they can be paid (Peter Davenport writes).

A spokeswoman for the group said yesterday that existing limits were causing further stress and suffering, particularly to parents who had lost teenage children. At present, bereavement damages of £3,500 are paid to a spouse or the parents of victims under 18.

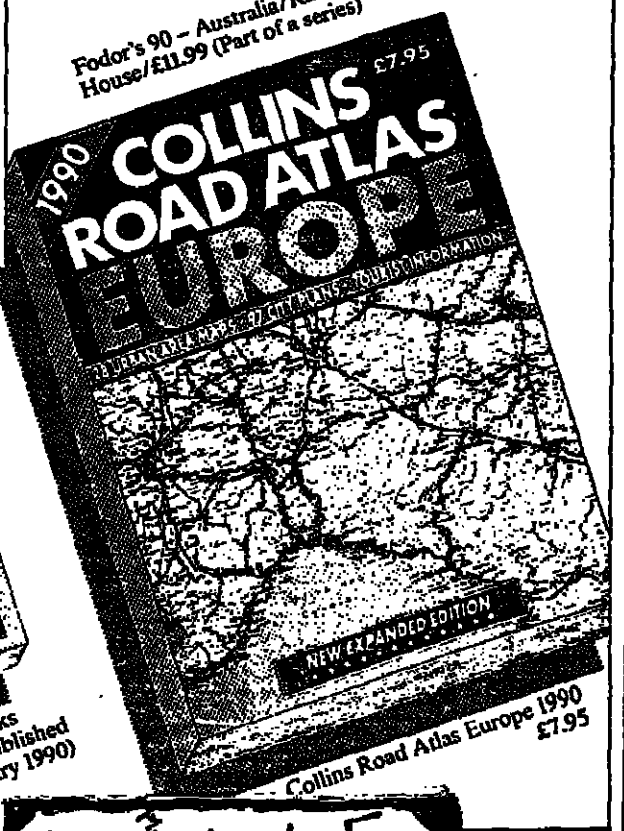
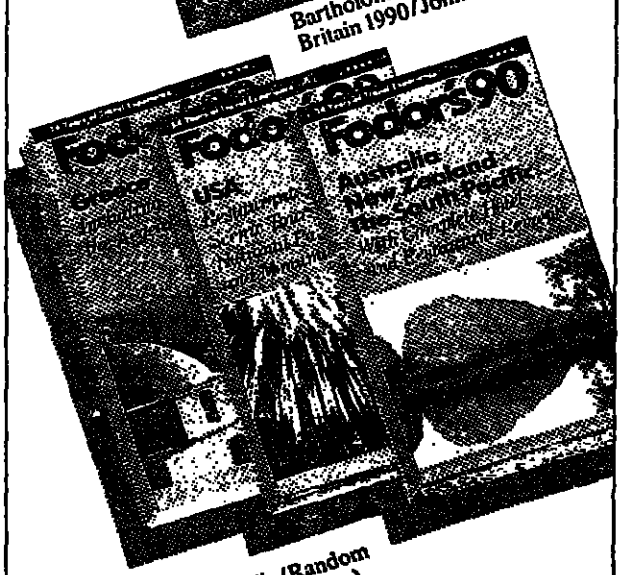
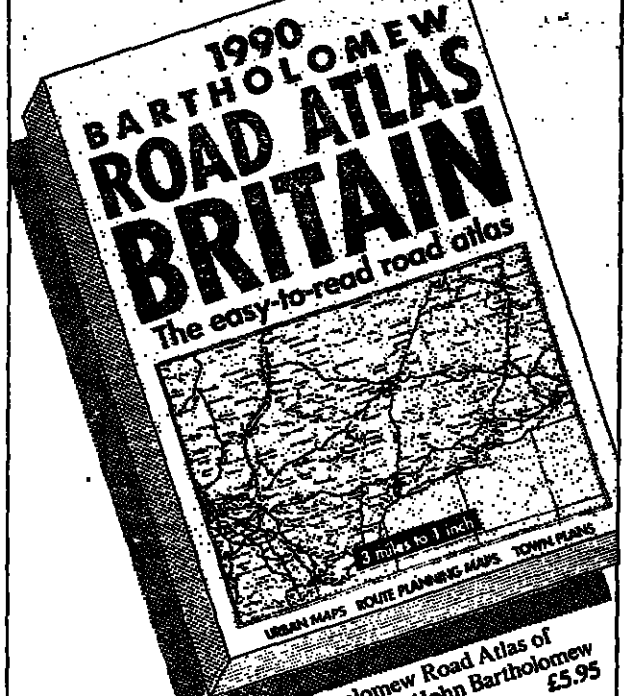


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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Repression of Prague Spring 'was treason'

Prague (Reuter) — Czechoslovakia's chief prosecutor says he is prepared to investigate former Communist leaders on treason charges for inviting Soviet troops into the country in 1968 to halt the "Prague Spring" reforms.

Mr Pavel Sitar, appointed this month by the new non-Communist-led Government, said: "Everyone agrees a crime of treason was committed in 1968."

He said the opportunity to charge hardliners suspected of "inviting" the Soviet Union to send in troops had lapsed after 20 years. But if the Supreme Court and other legal bodies were to reconsider this law and "give an authoritative ruling on the lapse, we could reopen the case."

A Soviet force with token units from other Warsaw Pact countries entered Czechoslovakia in August, 1968, and Mr Alexander Dubcek, the reformist party leader, was removed from office.

Mr Sitar spoke as the country's police force, under unprecedented scrutiny, showed signs of unrest. Mr Richard Sacher, the new non-Communist Interior Minister, has accused hardline Communists of stirring up trouble among the police, the newspaper *Lidova Democracie* said yesterday.

Mr Sitar, heading a team investigating police violence against pro-democracy demonstrators in Prague on November 17, said he could "open his brief if others made this possible."

"Events surrounding November 17 were very important, but so is the responsibility of those who created the mechanism which allowed it to happen," he said. "We are intensively investigating this (wider) background... linked to people who lost their parliamentary immunity."

Mr Miroslav Stepan, the former Prague party leader, and Mr Milos Jakes, the national party chief, were

stripped of immunity in December after a parliamentary commission said it considered them politically responsible for the police violence in November.

Mr Stepan has been charged with preparing to abuse his official position. A commission lawyer, Mr Josef Daniez, said Mr Jakes was unlikely to face criminal charges over the incident. Broader investigations could succeed only if documentary proof were produced.

The issue of holding police and former Communist politicians accountable for the past has emerged as a central problem in all Eastern bloc countries. In East Germany the lack of public trust in the security police has caused a political crisis.

Mr Sitar said a decision had been made in Czechoslovakia to disband the security police, but "its dissolution is not as simple as it sounds".

"There is a strong distrust rooted in the public. We have to do everything to regain its confidence. That is why I am here," he said.

Mr Sacher was expected to meet police chiefs tomorrow to discuss their worries about the future as well as proposals to set up a police union. He has tried to dissuade the police from forming a union, saying that "even in countries where free trade unions exist, there are certain professions which cannot go on strike".

Such moves were being coordinated by "the people who are not in favour of this tender revolution", he said, apparently referring to Communist hardliners. "The revolution may be tender, but it should not be naive."

Mr Sacher has reassured the police that they still have a role to play. "Any civilized society needs a police force," he said on Tuesday. But its role should be "not repression but prevention (of crime)", and he would dismiss anyone proved guilty of corruption or abuse of power.

East Germany unearths 'US spy transmitter'



Two unidentified East German army technicians holding what is claimed to be an American spy transmitter which they allegedly found buried in a forest near the Irfersgrün military base. The apparatus was said to be designed to transmit data on explosions and vehicle movements to an orbiting US satellite.

Greek Church warns Albania on human rights

Belgrade — Amid allegations of the torture and murder of ethnic Greeks in Albania, the Greek Orthodox Church yesterday called on Communist Albania, Greece's north-western neighbour, to improve its human rights record (Dessa Trevisan writes).

"I am warning the Tirana regime that the policy it has followed so far will lead to international isolation and

certain collapse," Archbishop Seraphim, the Greek Patriarch, declared in an unprecedented statement during a huge protest rally of several thousand people in central Athens.

The rally was staged to protest against the suppression of human rights for the 400,000 minority ethnic Greeks in Albania.

With such international pressure on

the Albanian regime continuing to mount, a state of emergency has been imposed at Skoder, Albania's second biggest city, which is near the country's northern border with Yugoslavia, a Yugoslav newspaper claimed yesterday.

Politika gave no indication of the source of its report, but said the move had been provoked by young people

who had been distributing leaflets calling on the population to rise against the Government.

It said police controls had since been reinforced throughout the region, and special passes reintroduced for Albanians wanting to move from one place to another. The guard at the presidential palace and other sensitive buildings had been trebled, it said.

Brussels lifeline is put to the test

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Western Europe's attempt to throw a lifeline to the struggling new democracies in Eastern Europe will be tested by three important initiatives this weekend.

There will be a preliminary meeting in Paris to set up the new Bank for European Reconstruction and Development, a visit by a top European Community official to Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia to assess those countries' urgent needs, and a visit to Poland by the EC Agriculture Commissioner to look at the food situation.

The permanent representatives of the Twelve held a lengthy meeting here yesterday to try to draw up a common EC position on the new bank, the brainchild of the French, which was formally given the go-ahead at the Strasbourg summit.

On Sunday the Group of 24 Western donor nations will meet in Paris to discuss the bank's structure, and on Tuesday they will begin a two-day meeting with the East European nations, including the Soviet Union, which will be the borrowers from the bank's funds. Optimists are hoping that the bank can be formally constituted by March.

Britain, however, has voiced reservations on the whole scope of the bank's functions, capital and lending policy.

French minister offers EC aid to restore Romania

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The first Western minister to visit Romania since December's revolution yesterday pledged new efforts to increase European Community co-operation to assist with the country's costly reconstruction programme.

Speaking after emotional visits to the sites of some of the fiercest fighting, Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, promised to raise "a number of problems in regard to co-operation between the EC and Romania" at next week's EC foreign ministers' meeting in Dublin.

Mr Dumas's visit was a welcome boost for Romania's provisional Government, which faces mounting pressure at home for its alleged failure to break sufficiently with the country's communist past.

In an effort to defuse criticism, the ruling National

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to visit Romania on Monday (Michael Knipe writes). He will be the first British minister to visit Bucharest since the uprising against the Ceausescu regime last month and expects to have talks with senior members of the interim Government. He will make a first-hand assessment and familiarise himself with the politicians involved.

Salvation Front has announced that it will hold round-table discussions with the seven new political parties next week at which the key issue will be the date for the holding of Romania's general election.

The French minister went out of his way to dismiss Paris-inspired rumours that the revolution was part of a carefully orchestrated plot rather than a spontaneous uprising of an oppressed population.

He referred one questioner back to the French press, which he blamed for perpetuating the theory, which has been vigorously denied by the Salvation Front.

However, on January 3 M Dumas said in Paris that France and probably the Soviet Union had been told as

long ago as last summer of the existence of a group of Communist Party members hostile to the Ceausescu regime.

In an interview with the French Europe-1 radio network, M Dumas had said: "I knew because our Ambassador there did his job. They (the Soviet authorities) undoubtedly knew, too."

Yesterday M Dumas said at a press conference given by Romanian troops in full combat gear: "It is clear that such a dictatorship as was overthrown here had to foster an opposition, but not necessarily an organized opposition."

"What I have seen is that this uprising was a profoundly popular one."

He added: "I did not believe in a coup or in a plot. But there had to be an opposition to a regime which tortured people and sent them into exile. I am now more convinced than ever that it was the Romanian people who overthrew the dictatorship."

M Dumas said that his visit had reinvigorated the traditionally close economic and cultural relationship between France and Romania. He pledged further French government aid to help Romania.

Earlier, the Romanian press carried accounts by militia-men involved in the arrest of the Ceausescus of how the late dictator had offered a bribe of \$5 million to one of them in an bid to persuade him to allow the couple to escape to a village where they had a secret hideaway.

The leading daily *Adevartul* (Truth) said the bribe had been refused by the officer concerned. Other members of the arrest squad were quoted as saying that Ceausescu had complained that he had been given stale bread to eat and had asked for a new suit after he had been in custody for 24 hours. It was his custom to have a complete set of new clothing daily. The old one was always burnt.

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Secret police become the new Sam Spades of Poland

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Move over, Philip Marlowe; hang up your holster, Sam Spade: this is for real. There is no lisp in the Warsaw offices of the Cerber Protection Agency, no hard stuff in the drawer.

Private eyes are in vogue in Eastern Europe, and they have a suspiciously professional air about them. Economic reform has opened the way for a new entrepreneurial breed, rich businessmen who feel nervous in the classless society.

At the same time the infrastructure of a police state has started to crumble. Secret agents are out of work, and they are missing the old rough and tumble. So supply is adjusting to demand: retired and sacked policemen are setting up their own detective or bodyguard bureaux.

You can spot them in the luxury hotels, wearing the shiny brown suits

they favoured while tailing dissidents. They are the customers who note down the price of every bill after ordering coffee, who strain to catch the conversation of expensively manicured women chatting with much younger but still expensively manicured men.

It is a comedown from the old days when they would pursue Mr Jacek Kuron — now a Cabinet minister — down the stairs, track him through Warsaw, and give him a bit of a dusting.

Over at the Warsaw police precinct, Colonel Krzysztof Zagodzinski is looking worried.

He is getting between five and 10 applications a day to set up detective agencies, mainly from former colleagues in the Interior Ministry, uniformed or secret police, but also from former soldiers.

Dismantling the secret police has entailed closing down their anti-Church and anti-opposition departments and

drastic cutbacks in the bugging of flats. The secret police have been renamed the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and lost some of their old glamour in the process.

The problem for Colonel Zagodzinski is that there are no guidelines for detective bureaux. All he can do is exclude known criminals and the mentally deranged.

"Some former soldiers who were released from the Army because they were mentally unstable or clearly mentally ill have applied. Of course, we turned them down," he said.

The Cerber Protection Agency is in safer hands — four former police officers. They still have good relations with the Interior Ministry, which probably helps when they vet the background of suspects. Their brief is to protect villas, private shops and warehouses, transport vehicles, supply bodyguards and detect crimes more efficiently than the state

police. For the time being, they come fairly cheaply — about 60p an hour plus expenses, compared to more than £60 an hour in Los Angeles.

So far most of their work is in the Philip Marlowe mould: errant wives, disappearing husbands. Since alimony is indexed for inflation, a cuckolded husband can save a considerable amount by showing the divorce court that his wife is deeply in the wrong.

Crime appears to be rising quickly in Poland, the Soviet Union and East Germany, although the usual analytical problems apply with this claim: perhaps people simply trust the police more often and are reporting crimes more often. But anecdotal evidence confirms there is an outbreak of violent crime, especially muggings and rape.

Houses with satellite dishes — a sign of wealth — are frequently burgled. There is an active trade in guard dogs although, given the price of meat, it is cheaper to

hire oneself a human bodyguard. The new wave of private detective agencies caters for the rich and anxious. Mr Andrzej Murawski, of Cerber, says: "We could mobilize a team of 20, put our people on every street corner, if necessary with night vision devices. There are people around who would commission us to do that, and who can afford it."

Indeed, with most of the restraints falling from private enterprise, millionaires abound. There are jewellers, manufacturers of sun-glasses, perfumers, cake wholesalers, computer importers and money-changers who have become *de facto* private bankers. They deal in large sums of dollars, almost always in cash, and use their own security networks.

As foreign companies think about investing in Eastern Europe they need as much intelligence as possible about future partners; this, too, can be supplied

by the former secret policemen.

A sign of the times is the Garda Property Protection Agency, which has opened the first gun shop in Eastern Europe. Provided you get an approving letter from the local police chief — usually granted unless you have a criminal record or are under age — it is now an easy matter to buy a gun and ammunition.

There seem to be no restrictions on calibre — Magnums, Colts and many others besides are imported from West Germany. East Germany forbids the transport of arms over its territory, so most of the small arms have come through Vienna and Czechoslovakia.

Those whose hired guns are of the human variety have developed an appropriate advertising pitch. One detective agency director said: "If a Western capitalist wants a bodyguard, we are ready — we can provide the finest."

Modrow olive branch to opposition

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin, and Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Hans Modrow, the beleaguered East German Prime Minister, has offered the opposition a greater say in the running of the country to offset criticism of his Government's authoritarian style.

He told the first session of the Volkskammer (parliament) in East Berlin this year that the country's peaceful revolution gave it an historic opportunity to work with the opposition and called on the opposition to work constructively with the Government in the run-up to the May elections.

"We are ready to talk with all the participants of the Round Table and have offered them the chance to work with us," he said. He also called on the opposition to present concrete suggestions to the Government and choose suitable representatives to take a "direct and responsible part" in the task of government.

However, he refused to grant opposition demands for a right of veto on government decisions, and warned that public attacks on the legitimacy of his Government would not help to restore political order in the country. His Government had a legitimate right to rule, he said. "I do not recall having become Prime Minister in a putsch."

Herr Modrow's comments came the day after Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, said the Government was viewing political developments in East Germany with growing concern, particularly over the way in which the Communists appeared to be trying to stop the opposition parties from being given a fair chance in the general elections, which are fixed for May 6.

All the main parties in West Germany, however, have since roundly criticized Herr Modrow's declaration to the

Volkskammer, including the leaders of all three coalition parties.

Herr Volker Rühe, General Secretary of the Christian Democrats, found that there was "a far from adequate signal" for an intensification of co-operation between Bonn and East Berlin. Herr Modrow's ideas were a long way behind what was happening in Poland and Hungary. His misgivings were echoed by Herr Theodor Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union, who said that there should be no question of a co-operation treaty being signed with East Germany until after the election, and Frau Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobsen, General

Bonn — Herr Alexander Schalk-Golodowski, aged 57, who was in charge of East German trade and currency dealings with the West, fears a lynch trial if he returns home and has decided to stay in West Germany (Ian Murray writes). He gave himself up in West Germany last month while being sought by East Germany on charges of corruption and currency fraud, but was released on Tuesday.

Secretary of the Free Democrats (FDP).

For the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), Herr Hans Böhler said all the signs were that Herr Modrow was trying to consolidate the party's hold on the Volkskammer.

Herr Modrow's speech was a clear attempt to extend an olive branch to the aggrieved opposition within East Germany, who have been threatening to quit the Round Table talks and withdraw their support from Herr Modrow's Government if he did not offer them concessions.

However, his speech was less conciliatory than many

had expected. He criticized the opposition's demand last Monday that he appear before the Round Table to defend his security policy. He also refused the opposition's demands that no new security service be founded in the country to replace the Office of National Security, which is currently being dissolved.

He told the parliament that such a service was necessary to arrest the rise of neo-Nazism in the country.

He promised that the opposition would, however, receive a full account of the intended structure of the security services when it resumes the Round Table talks with the Government next Monday. No old structures, the Prime Minister said, would be left within the redesigned security service, although he stopped short of promising that it would not employ former workers of the Ministry for State Security, as many opposition groups fear.

After widespread protests, including strike action, former state security workers who had been promised three years' redundancy payment will now receive only the statutory payment for one year.

Herr Modrow admitted that industry was suffering from the haemorrhage of East German labour to the West and that 250,000 vacancies could not be filled. More than 1,000 people continue to leave the country daily, in spite of pleas from both the East and West German Governments that they stay in the GDR.

The state of the East German economy was also admitted in full for the first time, with Herr Modrow speaking of gaps and discontinuity in production and failure to fulfil orders, due mainly to the lack of workers and failing materials.



Herr Modrow, right, and Herr Manfred Gerlach, the interim President, in the Volkskammer.

Soviet defence bill 'is double Kremlin claim'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Soviet defence spending is double the 77.3 billion roubles (about £79 billion) admitted by President Gorbachev, according to estimates in an internal Nato document which accuses Moscow of putting artificially low price tags on certain military activities.

The latest alliance analysis of Soviet military expenditure came on the eve of the next round of negotiations in the Conventional Forces in Europe talks, which begin in Vienna today.

The Nato and Warsaw Pact delegations have three six-week sessions until the end of June, during which they will have to resolve most of the outstanding problems if there is to be a chance of a treaty-signing ceremony this year.

The Nato study estimates that the defence budget for 1988 was 130 billion to 160 billion roubles (£133 billion to £163 billion), some 15 to 18 per cent of the Soviet gross domestic product and about double the figure for 1989 announced by Mr Gorbachev to the Congress of People's Deputies on May 30 last year.

The Nato analysis does not include Soviet spending in 1989, but the report acknowledges that there are signs the country is cutting its huge military budget.

The report, completed in November as the Berlin Wall crumbled, says: "While Nato remains highly sceptical regarding Soviet claims for their defence expenditures, it appears that the Soviet Union is indeed beginning to trim its defence outlays."

It adds: "A number of major procurement programmes, particularly in the land armaments area, are being scaled back, although it is far too early to tell whether... the Soviet Union will meet Mr Gorbachev's stated spending cuts (of 14.2 per cent in military spending and 19.5 per cent in production)."

In a recent speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Mr Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet Finance Minister, said the full 14 per cent reduction in military spending would be implemented by the end of 1991. He also said the 1990 defence budget would be 70.9 billion roubles.

One reason for the low Soviet figure on defence spending, the alliance report says, is the apparent exclusion

of several military activities counted by Nato in its estimate, including military space and some personnel.

But its adds: "Until the Soviet Union provides information on its defence activities in detail, it will be difficult to account fully for the differences (in spending estimates)."

Underlining Nato's mood of caution towards the dramatic changes that have taken place in the last few months, the report says: "Even if the announced cuts were in place by 1991, it would be extremely difficult to know what Soviet spending will be beyond 1991."

"The period of the 13th five-year plan, 1991-1995, is likely to be one of great change, politically, economically and militarily in the Soviet Union. Therefore, any conclusions concerning the level and growth of military expenditures are highly uncertain."

One of the key factors will be the effect that arms control agreements, in particular in the conventional forces area, will have on Soviet defence spending.

As the Nato and Warsaw Pact heads of delegations meet in Vienna today, one area for negotiation is the level of destruction that will be necessary for each piece of equipment to satisfy both sides that it cannot be used again for military purposes.

It is not yet clear, for example, whether a combat aircraft should be reduced "to razor blades" or whether parts of it could be removed and used for spares.

This is a crucial aspect because the cost of the whole Conventional Forces in Europe implementation process is going to prove a nightmare, especially for the Soviet Union which has far more tanks, armoured troop carriers and artillery to destroy than any other country.

● The US Defence Intelligence Agency has concluded that the Soviet Army is maintaining large stockpiles of ammunition and fuel in Eastern Europe as it withdraws some of its units, according to *The New York Times* newspaper yesterday.

● Next Tuesday in Vienna, chiefs of defence staff from 33 nations will take part in a military doctrine seminar to discuss the structure of their armed forces, training, military budgets and planning.

Yugoslavia takes its first steps towards democracy

Belgrade (AP) — Yugoslavia's ruling League of Communists is preparing to give up its monopoly of power and allow the first multi-party elections in 45 years, a leading communist said yesterday.

Mr Stefan Korošec, secretary of the policy-making Central Committee, told a press conference that the communist party would take part in the legislative elections in Yugoslavia's six republics "just as another party (would) with its new programme".

Elections in the republics, which send deputies to the national legislature, are scheduled for April. The new programme, which Mr Korošec said "departs from the model of

authoritarian" communism, still had to be adopted at an extraordinary party congress, which is scheduled to start on January 20.

Yugoslavia had a multi-party system before the Second World War, but that was abolished when the communists led by Tito came to power in 1945.

Mr Korošec also presented to reporters for the first time a final draft of a declaration to be approved by the congress in which the party pledges to relinquish its monopoly on power. It also calls for "free, direct and secret" multi-party elections. The draft declaration says that Yugoslav communists "advocate full participation (of Yogo-

slavia) in European integration processes (including) its membership in the European Community, the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association and other similar organizations and institutions".

Mr Korošec said that leaders in all of Yugoslavia's divergent communist republics supported the declaration "in principle". However, he also indicated that the document could cause fierce debate between hardliners and more liberal communists.

Yugoslav communists were first to break with the Soviet-led Communist bloc in 1948, but Yugoslavia, faced with its worst economic and political crisis, has been slower

in adopting the reforms that have swept through Eastern Europe.

Mr Korošec did not elaborate on what, if any, legal guarantees would be made that the party was giving up its leading role. In Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany articles in the constitution guaranteeing the leading role of the party have been scrapped. In Bulgaria, similar steps have been promised.

Yugoslavia is reworking its constitution, and if the document is adopted in its present form at next week's congress, it is likely the constitutional reference to the party's leading role will be scrapped.

Mr Korošec said he thought "the communists cannot lose next April's

elections", but if they did they might form a coalition with other left-wing parties, such as the Socialist Alliance which is now a communist-led mass organization but plans to constitute itself as an independent party.

Even though Yugoslavia has not formally adopted a law allowing independent political groups and parties to form, numerous political parties have sprung up in the past few months.

Some of the parties have clear nationalist programmes, which has led to fears that this could lead to open clashes between the republics that could seriously threaten the country's unity.

Man in the News: Algirdas Brazauskas

Engineer who aims to remake a nation

By Daniel Treisman

When President Gorbachev chose Mr Algirdas Brazauskas to head the Lithuanian branch of the Communist Party in October, 1988, the silver-haired former hydro-electric engineer must have seemed to him an example of the new type of freethinking, energetic reformer who might be able to rebuild the party's shattered legitimacy in the republic.

The irony is that 15 months later he seems to be succeeding in that aim at the cost of splitting with Moscow. The Lithuanian Communists have soared in popularity while the latest poll shows Sajudis, the nationalist movement, slipping back in public esteem. About six weeks before crucial legislative elections, the poll shows that Mr Brazauskas is the most popular politician in the republic.

In becoming that, he has created for Mr Gorbachev the most serious constitutional crisis of his five years in power. To accept Mr Brazauskas's break with the Soviet party is to invite party leaders from Estonia to Georgia to follow suit and declare in-

dependence; to resist means going against the 82 per cent of Lithuanians who approve of the split. Mr Brazauskas's remarkable popularity — one poll as far afield as the Ukrainian city of Lwow last year ranked him second only to the late Andrei Sakharov, the human rights campaigner — is a tribute to the sometimes courageous way he has dis-

engaged himself from a lifetime of party discipline to embrace the national cause. Born in Rokiskis, Lithuania, in 1932 — he is a year younger than Mr Gorbachev — Mr Brazauskas joined the party in 1959. Like the Soviet leader, he spent decades rising patiently through the apparatus, serving as Minister for Construction Materials and later as Secretary for Economic Affairs.

He showed himself prepared for change, however, when Mr Gorbachev's reforms opened the floodgates to an unprecedented revival of nationalism. In July, 1988, as the first demonstrators took to the streets of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, to press

for independence, he was the only high-ranking Communist official brave enough to address the crowds.

Three months later, Interior Ministry troops violently suppressed a mass meeting in the

city, arresting and injuring many. In the ensuing furor, Mr Ringaudas Songaila, retired as party leader and Mr Brazauskas was chosen to replace him — an appointment clearly made at the insistence of Mr Gorbachev.

The Soviet President had sent Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, his close aide, to meet party leaders in the republic that August, according to Mr Saulius Suziedelis, an analyst of Lithuanian events for the Voice of America. "He was known as someone who wasn't afraid to get up and speak to people at rallies. Not many people in the party were doing that; they were just hiding," Mr Suziedelis said. Mr Brazauskas won much public goodwill when, as one of his first acts in office, he announced that the cathedral in Vilnius, used for years as an art gallery, would be returned to the Catholic Church. His relations with Mr Gorbachev are thought to be warm. As recently as last summer, according to one report, he was in close contact with the Soviet President, talking to him by telephone at least once a week. Mr Gorbachev has in the past referred to him as "a friend" but the relationship may have grown strained as the Lithuanian leader's position edged closer to outright separatism.

By one account, at last

Thursday's six-hour meeting in the Kremlin he made the historic gesture of presenting Mr Gorbachev with a plan and a timetable for Lithuanian independence. The very fact that Mr Gorbachev apparently listened to such a plan has pushed him "across a certain bridge", according to Mr Suziedelis.

Back home in Vilnius, Mr Brazauskas is admired for his steadiness of purpose, according to an emigre who remains in close contact with the republic. "Having made a decision, he does not go back on it. He is like a buffer. You push him in front of something and he just takes all the blows," he said.

A towering, barrel-chested former yachtsman, Mr Brazauskas strikes visitors as sincere and down-to-earth.

Some, observing the spirited national democrat who has emerged from a dull Brezhnevite chrysalis, wonder how deep his new convictions lie and whether some of the apparent jockeying with Moscow might be merely for show.

Vilnius rendezvous, page 14

Bering Strait feels benefit of thaw in the Cold War

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The thaw in superpower relations is being felt even in the frozen wastes of Alaska and Siberia. In Washington this week, US and Soviet officials announced that they had agreed to establish an international park spanning the Bering Strait.

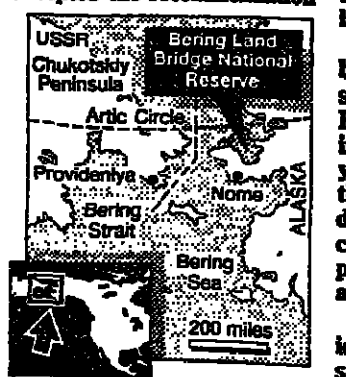
A joint feasibility study by the National Parks Services of the two nations, said the purpose would be "to promote the protection, understanding and enjoyment of the common heritage of Beringia", as the region of icebound wilderness on both sides of the narrow strip of sea is known.

Beringian natives would be able to resume ancient historical and cultural links disrupted by the Cold War. Wildlife managers will be able to track walrus, birds and other animals which migrate between the countries. Natural historians and scientists seeking to hop the 30 miles from Alaska to Siberia for research purposes will no longer have to detour via Moscow.

The US has proposed an existing 2.8 million-acre nature preserve as its contribution to the "Arctic Park", and,

the Russians intend to match that. Each country would supervise its half, but there would be regular meetings of the park managers and they would establish a joint "centre for research and public information".

Announcing that they had accepted the recommendation



of the joint feasibility study, Mr Manuel Lejano, the US Secretary of the Interior, and Mr V.G. Sokolovsky, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Protection of the Environment, said they wanted the park established in the near future.

Legislation will be required

in both countries, but the US National Parks Service is saying that what it calls "glaciers into glaciers" will become reality by 1991.

The effect of the park will be to create the artificial twentieth-century division of two regions, whose links date back to the existence of an Ice Age land bridge.

Even when that was covered by the sea, said the feasibility study, "common life in Beringia continued without interruption for thousands of years. Even under the flag of the Russian Empire, and later during American and Russian commercial whaling periods, people, ideas and goods moved across the sea."

"But the flow of culture and ideas, which could not be stemmed by the submergence of the land bridge, was disrupted by the tide of politics."

There have been recent signs of rapprochement. Visa restrictions have been relaxed for Alaskan and Siberian natives wishing to visit relatives. Bering Air has begun charter flights between Nome in Alaska and the Siberian city of Providentia.

January 11 1990

PARLIAMENT

Pay deals worrying Thatcher

After the unions' rejection of the 10.2 per cent Ford pay offer, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said MPs at question time that the movement of wage costs was very disturbing. Jobs were at risk, she said, quoting figures showing better containment of wage costs by Britain's main competitors.

Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) had said that "irresponsible" wage claims unrelated to productivity would, if granted, lead to higher inflation, the erosion in value of savings and the destruction of jobs.

Labour MPs: What about the free market? Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Marshall was right. "If our wage costs rise faster than those of our competitors, our competitors will get the orders and the jobs. The movement of wage costs is very disturbing."

The last available figures, in the second third of last year, showed that UK wage costs were up by 6 per cent.

In the United States, they were up by 2 per cent and, in West Germany, by 1 per cent. They were down in Japan by 1 per cent, in France by 3 per cent and in the Netherlands by 4 per cent.

"That means that those concerned

with getting orders and jobs here must have a very careful look to keep wage costs down."

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Would she tell us how far she is prepared to blame herself and her Government's policy for the rate of inflation?

Mrs Thatcher: We have made it quite clear that there was too much money in the system for the output that we were having and, therefore, that steps have to be taken to correct it and are being taken.

She said that the present rate of inflation—at 7.6 or 7.7 per cent—was, for the last Labour Government, so low that they had ambitions to get down to it.

Mr Kinnock: When it is the Government's deliberate policy to keep mortgage rates and interest rates very high, to increase electricity and fares and also to impose, very shortly, both the business rate and the poll tax, is not the Director General of the CBI (Mr John Banham) absolutely right to say that inflation is the fault of the Government? (Loud Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: No. Inflation happens when we have too much money in the system (Labour protests). It means that we are taking more out in

PRIME MINISTER

money than we are putting in in output.

That has to be corrected by two means. One, by interest rates and, the other, by keeping a tight fiscal policy. We are doing both.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): Could she comment on the rather old-fashioned attitude of some trade union leaders who have not learnt the lessons of 1979-80? Moreover, will she reject the view that increased productivity automatically justifies a pay increase, since it may be that productivity is going up in an industry where demand is going down?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The first rule is that wage increases must not outstrip productivity.

As he points out, increased productivity also comes from substantially increased investment of capital, and then there must be a return on capital, and also it could be that increased productivity causes price reductions, so that the consumer is entitled to get some reductions if they (the system) can stay competitive.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) asked Mrs Thatcher, given her determination to defeat inflation, what she thought about the idea supported by the Governor, the deputy governor and the former deputy governor of the Bank of England that there should be placed on the Bank the statutory obligation to maintain the value of money.

Mrs Thatcher: That should remain part of the Government's duty. We have to achieve it by keeping the money supply tight.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worthing, Lab) said that if Mrs Thatcher's policy was to increase interest and mortgage rates, it was obvious that people at work would demand higher and higher wages to pay for those higher interest rates.

"Is it her view that there is now no alternative to that strategy? If it is, it means wage-demand escalation."

"Or is it," he added, "that she has some other secret policy that she is unwilling to disclose to the House, some informal incomes policy based on the threat of higher and higher unemployment?"

Mrs Thatcher: Wage costs and wage claims and their settlement are matters for industry. One would hope that they would take into account that if wage

costs price them out of the market, they price themselves out of jobs. She said that the alternative to the correct policies to deal with inflation by interest rates and tight fiscal policy was to let inflation rip.

Mr David Porter (Waverley, C): As we are still to some extent a nation of shopkeepers, and as she was brought up above the shop, as I was, what message has she for small businesses and shopkeepers worried about uniform business rates? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher said that the amount raised from business rate next year would be the same as this year, plus inflation, so there would be no real increase (Labour laughter).

There had been changes the first rating revaluation since 1973, which had given rise to nearly three-quarters of the increase in rates.

"That is an object lesson to anyone who wanted to apply it to domestic rating."

There was to be a transition period of at least five years during which the increase would be no more than 20 per cent for larger businesses and no more than 15 per cent for smaller businesses. It was the first time that business would have had assurance about its rates.

Diseased meat 'not entering the food chain'

AGRICULTURE

Suggestions that meat from cows infected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was entering the human food chain were dismissed as "absolute nonsense" by Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during question time.

He rejected a request by Mr Anthony Steel (South Hants, C) that the Government should review the level of compensation for farmers whose herds were infected by the disease.

"We believe that 50 per cent of the value of the animal as if it were healthy is fair compensation for an animal which is terminally ill and therefore worthless."

Mr Steel said that there were similarities between neurological wasting diseases of the human brain and BSE, and it was known that the disease in sheep was passed on to cows, although there was no evidence that it could be passed on to humans.

Why was the Government not encouraging farmers by giving them the incentive to report cows suffering from the early stages of the disease so that they would not, as was happening in North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire, reach the markets for sale?

Mr Maclean denied that was the case. "We have so many safety belts and braces on this operation it is just not true." Ninety-nine per cent of all infected animals were caught at the farm stage. Official was then removed, including the brain and other official which could contain BSE, from all animals. Veterinary services were doing special checks of markets.

"So there is no prospect of meat infected by BSE getting into the human food chain."

Mr Matthew Taylor (Truro, Lib Dem) said that those assurances would not reassure producers or consumers.

The central nervous system. These officials are removed from all cows whether they have BSE or not."

Egg-test scheme 'against EC law'

AGRICULTURE

It would violate European Community law to delay egg imports for testing, Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said at question time.

He accused Dr David Clark, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, of misleading people by claiming that it could be done.

Mr Andrew Stewart (Sherwood, C) said that the methods of checking food imports provided by the Labour Party, which involved detaining food until it went bad, would be illegal under EC law.

Mr Gummer said that Dr Clark's statement that Labour would hold up food imports for testing was wholly contrary to EC law.

Dr Clark challenged Mr Gummer to deny that a clause in the EC legislation allowed him to prohibit contaminated food entering Britain if public health would be at risk.

Salmonella-contaminated eggs had been found coming into the country from The Netherlands. In the four days waiting for the test results the contaminated eggs had been sent for sale. Why were there two standards—one for British eggs and one for imports?

To Conservative cheers, Mr Gummer said that British eggs were healthier than anyone else's because Britain had tougher laws than any other EC country. Dr Clark should be assumed for misleading the people. He knew that what he had said was wholly contrary to EC law.

Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset, C) said that much of the control of inter-EC trade was required because of the possible business connections of a minister. Mr Michael Forsyth, was made in the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that Mr Campbell-Savours had made the fresh attempt, again in the standing committee considering the National Health Service and Community Care Bill, and had been ruled out of order by the chairman.

Was it in order for an MP to do this again when the allegations had been denied by the minister, because this was tantamount to saying that the minister was a liar?

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he hoped that what Mr Bennett had said was not true in view of the solemn undertaking given by Mr Campbell-Savours to the House on Tuesday (This was after Mr Campbell-Savours made his first attempt to bring up the matter in the committee that morning).

That had led to the Leader of the House (Sir Geoffrey Howe) withdrawing a motion to give

believed they were being prevented from taking the necessary action to prevent contaminated official getting into the human food chain.

Mr Maclean said his advice to Mr Taylor was to check his facts. While not blaming farmers for wanting to get 100 per cent compensation, that did not mean the 50 per cent offer was leading to infected meat entering the food chain.

"I am absolutely satisfied that my veterinary officers have been correctly advised. It is irrelevant whether an animal's head was on or off before it entered the slaughter house because the relevant official is removed from all animals' heads. That is something he should double check on."

Mr Maclean said that there were similarities between neurological wasting diseases of the human brain and BSE, and it was known that the disease in sheep was passed on to cows, although there was no evidence that it could be passed on to humans.

The Government's scientific advisers' new research programme clearly indicated that the Government recognized the very real danger to human health. "Given that, why does he not accept that the only way to safeguard BSE-infected products getting into the human food chain is to offer 100 per cent compensation and stopping entry at source?"

Mr Maclean: This is absolute nonsense. Whether there is 100 per cent compensation or 50 per cent is not the means of stopping any infected official getting into the food chain. You do that by cutting out all officials.

People call this mad-cow disease, but they are wrong to call it that. It destroys the brain and the central nervous system. These officials are removed from all cows whether they have BSE or not."

whereas Dutch and other EC farmers did not have to.

Mr Gummer said that it was for that reason that the Government was encouraging the campaign to mark all boxes of British eggs. Almost all supermarkets would be pointing out that the eggs they sold were British, and farmers would be reminded that they should point out that British eggs were better protected than others.

© The Government's response to problems of radioactivity in farm animals for human consumption after the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union in 1986 had been one of almost furtive negligence. Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said during questions.

He asked if it could be said honestly that the ministry and the public had been adequately informed during the four years since the accident at Chernobyl.

Had not the Swedes had an aerial survey within six weeks of Chernobyl? When would Britain be able to emulate its neighbours?

Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that he did not recognize Mr Hardy's description. "No other country in the world acted as promptly or as comprehensively as the United Kingdom in taking action to protect all our food supplies."

In the House library were shelves "groaning" under the weight of the information made available to the House and to the public in ways in which the protection had been stepped out. An aerial survey had been done, but it had not yielded any more speedy information than men on the ground examining the soil.

'Public right and ministers wrong' on ambulance pay

In a democracy there were occasions when the public was right and the Government wrong, Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said when he opened a Commons debate on the ambulance dispute. This was one of them.

The public was right to insist that the ambulance staff deserved a fair and just award. The Government was wrong, Mr Cook said, to insist that the public should pay for a service that was not theirs. The money needed to settle it was equal to that already spent on Army and police cover.

If the Government was prepared to split the difference on the pay award, it would cost £5 million, less than half the increase in the advertising budget this year for the Department of Health.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that the claim was excessive and not justified by comparison with other health service staff who had not taken industrial action.

A 1 per cent pay increase in the National Health Service meant £130 million on the annual wages bill.

Mr Cook moved a motion recognizing that the ambulance staff provided an essential emergency service with skill and courage, that there was public support for a just pay deal and pay mechanism, and calling for early government negotiations to end the four-month-old dispute.

He said the debate was about a service in crisis and that service was an emergency service. The crisis had left people lying in pain and distress longer than any civilized society should tolerate and left people in a state of collapse without the skilled treatment they needed.

Thousands of policemen and Servicemen had, in the past four months, no doubt given of their best. But if MPs were serious in appreciating what they had done, they must listen to what they said about the cover they could provide.

There were many cases where the emergency service brought in to substitute for the ambulance service could not cope with the calls made on it.

Many questions could be put to Mr Clarke about the dispute but only one answer mattered: how did he see the dispute being resolved? Nothing that Mr Clarke had said showed a strategy for settling the dispute other than the unions surrendering on their total claim.

'Unfair' to give in now

A score of settlements in the health service were above the offer to the ambulance staff. The average settlement in the public sector over the four months of the dispute had been 8.6 per cent.

They could not know what would settle the dispute until Mr Clarke or his representative got into the negotiating room.

But if that average settlement in the public sector was offered, the Secretary of State would find

At Prime Minister's questions, Mrs Thatcher said that it would be unfair to the 84 per cent of NHS employees who had settled last year's wage claims at 6.5 per cent or 6.8 per cent, and had not been prepared to put patients' interests at risk, to give in now to those who refused to accept that.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab) recalled her view in previous industrial disputes that the emergency services—police, fire and ambulance crews—should have their wages settled by a formula.

Given the obvious merit of the ambulance workers' case, the overwhelming public support for it, and the division in the ranks of her own Government, was there any reason, except for her love of confrontation, why this dispute should not be settled on the basis of her idea of a formula?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not accept what he said in the early part of his question. Ambulance pay should be settled by national negotiation. The Clergy commission had rejected the idea that ambulance pay should be settled in relation that of police and firemen.

himself within a whisker of settling.

"I do hope he is not going to tell us that the settlement cannot be afforded because he cannot find the money. He has found the money to pay the police and the Army to do the job of the ambulance staff."

The Association of London Authorities estimated that the cost of police cover in London alone has been £3.5 million. Figures he had obtained yesterday estimated the total cost of police time in 14 areas outside London, where the police had been active, to be £4,400,000. The cost to the Army must be £2.5 million.

"If you add together those three figures you find that the cost of this dispute in paying the

police and the Army to do the job that would be better done by paying ambulance staff to do it is £10,400,000.

"The difference between what is offered by the Secretary of State of 6.5 per cent and what is demanded by ambulance staff of 11.4 per cent is 5 per cent. Each 1 per cent on the ambulance staff pay bill is £2 million.

"It would, in short, cost £10 million to settle the claim in full. How is it that they cannot find the money to settle the dispute but they can find the same amount of money to prolong the dispute?" (Labour cheers)

Mr Clarke had a happy knack of finding the phrase to inflame tempers whenever he intervened. It defied common sense to tell ambulance crews that they were not an emergency service.

The ambulance crews who responded to the crash on the M25 knew that they were an emergency service. But they were mystified as to why Mr Clarke tried to deny it. Four out of five ambulance staff were fully qualified: they were trained in life-saving skills, many had attended more than 50 births on the kerbside, and many put themselves at risk in providing services to the victims of accidents.

What other professional drivers required such skills and took such risks under such severe stress?

Seven years ago a survey into stress suffered by ambulance-men found that many did not reach retirement age. Most took early retirement through ill health. Of the few who did make it, the average period of survival was 2.4 years.

The staff side had made a series of concessions. The only elements that remained were the pay award and a pay mechanism for future settlements. On both counts they were willing to compromise.

If the Government was prepared to split the difference on the pay award, it would cost £5 million, less than half the increase in the advertising budget this year for the Department of Health.

In an earlier debate Mr Roger Freeman, the Under Secretary of State for Health, had said that he recognized from his own constituency experience the powerful public support for the ambulance service.

"And that is the most dramatic feature of the dispute. The degree of public support... is without precedent... Consistently the ambulance staff have been beating the Secretary of State in opinion polls by a measure of eight to one."

therefore it was fair that the local authority bore a share of the costs. Blackpool would be full at that time of year anyway, and did not need party conferences to ensure the town's prosperity, he said.

The House Office said yesterday that all local police authorities had their own special requirements, whether it was party conferences, pop concerts or football matches. There was no argument for treating conference costs differently.

Mr Pike dismissed the argument that party conferences brought trade to a town and

Concern over conference police costs

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

The Government should pay the full costs of policing and security at party conferences, the Labour backbencher, Mr Peter Pike, said in an adjournment debate last night.

At present, the additional costs are shared equally by the Home Office and the local police authority and represent a particular problem for the local authority which hosts the Gov-

ernment party's conference. Costs have risen sharply since the Grand Hotel bomb at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton in 1984.

The additional policing costs in Blackpool for the Tory conference last October totalled £1,080,000 and estimates for this year's conference, due to be held in Bournemouth, already suggest that the figure could exceed £2 million. Costs for opposition parties are far lower and security at the Labour Party

conference in Brighton last year totalled no more than an additional £40,000.

Mr Pike also expressed concern that the security requirements of party conferences took police officers away from the surrounding locality. His own constituency, Burnley, in Lancashire, had suffered in this way for many years at the time of Blackpool conferences, he said.

Mr Pike dismissed the argument that party conferences brought trade to a town and

patients and other constituents who fear that the big National Health Service reforms will lead to lower standards.

The Secretary of State proposes that local authorities should set up independent inspection units. However, the royal college argues that it will mean councils being both "gamekeeper and poacher" as providers and users of service.

"Therefore, in order to ensure a high quality of standards of care, the college wishes to see an independent, nationally to monitor the care that is delivered by the private, the voluntary and the public sectors."

The amendment would cover all health and social care facilities including National Health Service and private hospitals and clinics, health centres and GPs' practices

and nursing homes. The royal college's working party recommended that teams of inspectors with health or social work qualifications should be established under a national director.

The terms would:

- check that conditions of registration are met;
- make regular visits to monitor standards;
- make reports and keep records on each facility;
- give advice to managers on standards and training.

"Care standards and guidelines would not only reflect physical and environmental factors but should also aim to outline agreed standards where possible in areas such as leisure activities for residents, recreation, spiritual needs, skill mix, treatment plans, therapies, etc." the college suggests.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Environmental Protection Bill, second reading.
Tuesday: Coal Industry Bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday: Debate on parliamentary pensions. Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. Private Bills: Hythe Marina Village (South-sypton) Waverley Bill and Isle of Wight Bill, Lords amendments.

Thursday: Motion on central government financial support for English local authorities.

Friday: Private member's motion on Opposition policies.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Food Safety Bill, committee, first day.
Tuesday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, committee, first day.
Wednesday: Debates on German reunification and on tax relief on contributions to private health insurance.

Thursday: Food Safety Bill, committee, second day.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Debate on the future of the multi-fibre arrangement.

Business questions

Rebuke for Labour MP

A complaint that Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worthing, Lab) had made a renewed attempt today to raise allegations about the possible business connections of a minister, Mr Michael Forsyth, was made in the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that Mr Campbell-Savours had made the fresh attempt, again in the standing committee considering the National Health Service and Community Care Bill, and had been ruled out of order by the chairman.

Was it in order for an MP to do this again when the allegations had been denied by the minister, because this was tantamount to saying that the minister was a liar?

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he hoped that what Mr Bennett had said was not true in view of the solemn undertaking given by Mr Campbell-Savours to the House on Tuesday (This was after Mr Campbell-Savours made his first attempt to bring up the matter in the committee that morning).

That had led to the Leader of the House (Sir Geoffrey Howe) withdrawing a motion to give

the chairman of the committee power to suspend any MP at further sittings, the Speaker said.

He did not think that Mr Campbell-Savours should persist in this conduct.

Earlier, Mr Campbell-Savours, on a point of order, had asked during business questions that Mr Forsyth should make a personal statement to the House to answer the question whether, when he was no longer a minister, he intended to return to the firm of Michael Forsyth Ltd. When he did so, the matter would be finished.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said Mr Forsyth had done his best to answer the allegations made under cover of parliamentary privilege. If the matter was as important as Mr Campbell-Savours stated, he might take the opportunity to raise it outside that cover.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) said that Mr Campbell-Savours should not use the privilege of the House to indulge in McCarthyite sneers against Mr Forsyth, who had given a clear assurance there was nothing in them.

● The select committee on

televising the Commons was investigating the efficiency of the microphone system in the Chamber. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said during business questions.

His remarks came immediately after Prime Minister's questions when a number of MPs complained that they could not hear Mr Thatcher.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) told Sir Geoffrey that, although some MPs might be getting older and deaf, the acoustics in the Chamber were undoubtedly becoming considerably worse. Ministers were having some difficulty in making themselves heard. There had been a definite deterioration.

Sir Geoffrey said that he was not sure that there had been a deterioration but a number of MPs had brought the matter to his attention.

He was advised that the problem was the consequence of the antiquity of the microphone system. The televising experiment had been authorized to proceed with the existing acoustic equipment.

The committee on televising the House was looking at what should be done to modernize the acoustic equipment.

Troops leave Tiananmen Square as Chinese leadership begins talks on Hong Kong

Two held as police keep wary eye on the Peking crowd

From Seth Faison, Peking

At least two people were detained by police for disrupting the peace yesterday in Tiananmen Square, marring the full reopening of central Peking that followed the lifting of martial law.

After all but a few armed police marched out of the square early yesterday, plainclothes officers replaced them and filtered through the crowd of tourists, kite-flyers and curiosity-seekers all day.

They appeared to be under orders to prevent any show of opposition to the Government, including attempts to mourn those who were killed during the crackdown on protesters last June.

The Monument to the Revolutionary Martyrs, an obelisk in the centre of the square that served as a command post for the democracy movement last year, was cordoned off and six armed police stood guard round it.

In the morning, a university student arrived carrying large rolls of posters he wanted to display in the square. As the police began to close in, the student walked away. "Putting up the posters would be like sacrificing myself for nothing," he said. Onlookers stared silently at a notice-board proclaiming the monument out of bounds. Pasting up posters, shouting slogans, sleeping on the ground and laying wreaths in the area were forbidden, it added.

In the afternoon, witnesses saw an elderly man in a worn, blue Mao jacket carried away by plainclothes police after he shouted at soldiers: "How many people did you kill?"

"The living are dead and the dead will return," the man yelled defiantly, as police escorted him inside the Museum of Revolutionary History, where soldiers or armed police are believed to be stationed in

case of any large-scale disturbances.

Soon afterwards, in the course of an interview with a British television crew, an agitated middle-aged woman was taken away by police after she began to cry while discussing the need for China's reunification with Taiwan.

Asked why she was being detained, a policeman said she "had problems". But others in the crowd clearly got the message that they should watch their step and minimize contacts with foreign journalists.

Restrictions on journalists, which martial law technically forbade from any reporting

not approved by the authorities, were effectively lifted yesterday. "It is a return to normal," said Mr Jin Guihua, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

State television reported that the majority of Peking's residents had shown "great respect" for the lifting of martial law, and read out a lengthy justification of the original order made in the address by the Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, on Wednesday night.

At a press briefing, Mr Yuan Mu, the State Council spokesman, said a "small increase" over normal troop strength in

Peking and surrounding areas would be maintained to help Public Security officials keep social order.

From early morning, people watched workmen removing barricades to widen access to the square and lined up to have their pictures taken by professional photographers.

Shortly before noon up to 1,000 troops camped in the history museum since June marched across the square, chanting and singing military songs. They disappeared into a walled compound near the Great Hall of the People.

"I thought martial law was over," said one of the several thousand people strolling around the square as he watched the soldiers go by.

Mr Yuan denied that any of the officers in the museum were from the People's Liberation Army. "You are wrong. All the soldiers have left," he said. Mr Yuan said the timing of the lifting of martial law was not tied to any specific event but was aimed at improving the capital's mood as the lunar new year approached.

Asked if the lifting of martial law meant that the dispute over Mr Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist who took refuge in the US Embassy last year, might also be settled, Mr Yuan let the Foreign Ministry spokesman answer. Mr Jin repeated earlier statements that the Fang question required efforts from both China and the US. "The only way out" was for Mr Fang to plead guilty immediately.

Asked about the fate of Mr Zhao Ziyang, the former Communist Party leader, Mr Yuan said that Mr Zhao's case was still under investigation, and that he was living "a normal life" in Peking with his family.

(South China Morning Post)



Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, at a news conference in Peking yesterday with a smiling Mr Zhou Nan, China's Deputy Foreign Minister.

Stormy words darken Governor's visit

From Chris Yeung, Peking

Sir David Wilson, the Hong Kong Governor, hit the first snag in his mission to restore relations with China yesterday when he engaged in a public verbal clash with Mr Li Hou, a senior Chinese official, over anti-Peking protests in Hong Kong.

In a surprise move, Mr Li told Sir David in public that a recent pro-democracy rally in the territory would affect the normalization of Sino-Hong Kong relations.

He said there were still people in the territory causing trouble. "For instance, some people on New Year's Day chanted 'Down with the so-called Ceasefires in China'."

Launching his verbal attack, Mr Li said this was more than "a little bit" and was not too small. "We have to do now is clear away the clouds so we can see the clear blue sky."

"I have said in Guangzhou (in November), concerning Sino-British and Sino-Hong

Kong relations, that it is time we should have a clear sky after the rain."

A serious-looking Sir David was taken aback by Mr Li's remarks. In response, he pointed to the need to "distinguish between a small shower of rain and a typhoon and not to get confused with the two."

Sir David said: "I'm not an expert on weather forecasts. But we are almost at the end of the winter and spring is coming round. We'd like to be in the period of spring weather."

Mr Li chipped in: "Small showers of rain will become typhoons if they are not given immediate attention. That is what we have to work hard to prevent - further rain."

The exchange, clearly referring to Hong Kong pro-democracy activities which China has branded as subversive, erupted during a photo call before formal talks between Mr Li and Sir David at the Diaoyutai guesthouse.

Mr Li, deputy director of the

State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, was referring to a protest march organized by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China on New Year's Day outside the New China News Agency's headquarters in Happy Valley.

More than 10,000 protesters chanted slogans such as "Down with the Ceasefires in China" and "Down with the Deng-Li-Yang clique."

In Hong Kong last night an organizer of the New Year's Day march, Mr Lau Chin-shik, said there was "neither heavy rain nor strong wind, but only spring showers which will nourish the land."

Mr Li's attack on the Alliance, chaired by Mr Sze Wo, the Hong Kong legislator, indicated that differences still remain over the Government's handling of pro-democracy activities in the territory.

The Hong Kong Govern-

ment has maintained that the territory has never been used as a base for subversion against China.

But Peking apparently fears that a quicker pace of democratic reforms would open the way for liberals who are closely associated with the Alliance to dominate the future Special Administrative Region Government.

The Basic Law Drafting Committee's sub-groups during their recent sessions.

He emphasized, however, that he believed that differences could be narrowed through dialogue.

"Over the past few years, we had been keeping constant contact which was beneficial to both sides. We hope that in the near future we can restore such close contact," said Mr Li.

Sir David agreed and said that discussions would help to re-establish a constructive dialogue to deal with practical issues facing the territory.

(South China Morning Post)

Leading article, page 15

WORLD ROUNDUP

Moscow boost to Gulf peace hope

A breakthrough appeared to have been achieved yesterday in the long-running quest for a peace settlement after the Gulf War, when Iraq joined Iran in agreeing to a Soviet offer of mediation (Hizir Teimourian writes). The prospects seemed bright for a lasting peace for the first time since the two countries stopped fighting in August, 1988.

The Soviet offer was announced on Wednesday. Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the initiative had been agreed with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, and did not mean "any substitution for the UN peace efforts in the region". The indication was that the initiative had been some time in preparation and the Soviet Union believed there was a good chance of success. Talks will be held in Moscow between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers.

Row over Kashmir

Delhi - Relations between Pakistan and the new Indian Government have soured amid an angry exchange of words over escalating violence in the Kashmir Valley, most of which has been placed under a shoot-on-sight curfew (Christopher Thomas writes).

Pakistan yesterday attacked Indian "distortions" of its alleged role in fanning trouble in the valley, and warned that blaming Pakistan for what was happening was "potentially very dangerous". Earlier, Indian government officials quoted Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, as cautioning Islamabad not to support armed Kashmiri secessionists, because "such things become difficult to manage if allowed to grow".

Soviet rig in trouble

Oslo (Reuters) - A gale carried a Soviet oil rig close to the Norwegian coast early yesterday and Norwegian helicopters flew 16 of the 23 crew to safety. Mr Kjell Larsen, leader of the rescue team, said four Soviet tug boats were holding the Kotskaya rig steady about 1,000 yards from shore near the northern town of Vannoyva. "The situation is under control," he said, adding that the remaining members of the crew "will not be evacuated unless the situation worsens".

The Kotskaya, the first Soviet rig that was intended to be used in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, was being towed by tugs from the Soviet port of Murmansk to Stavanger in western Norway when the wind and heavy seas swept it towards the coast.

Picasso works stolen

Antibes, France - Thieves have stolen 80 ceramic works by Pablo Picasso worth two million francs (£210,000) from the French Riviera workshop where the artist worked for 40 years, police said yesterday (Reuters reports). The robbers broke through a window of the workshop in Vallauris, near here, on the night of December 28-29 when the gallery was closed for the new year holiday. They carried away the 80 pieces, including decorated plates, serving dishes and pots, in a lorry, police said.

Saudis deny torture

Saudi Arabia yesterday denied that it held any political prisoners or used torture to extract confessions (Michael Knipe writes). The denial was in response to an Amnesty International report published yesterday that cited evidence of systematic human rights violations, including the use of torture, in the kingdom in recent years. The report detailed the cases of 66 detainees, one of whom died in custody. The Saudi Press Agency described it as "inaccurate, exaggerated and based on accounts that should not be believed".

Massacre inquiry

Nairobi - The Sudanese military junta has set up a committee to investigate the death last month of hundreds, possibly thousands, of southern tribespeople in central Sudan (Mari Colley writes). Diplomats say at least 600 of the Nilotic Shukuk people, including women and children, were killed by the Muslim Subha tribe in riots at El-Jebelain at the end of December. The ruling Revolutionary Council claims 214 people were killed and 38 wounded; the Sudan People's Liberation Army puts the death toll at more than 2,000.

Mayor's mouth brings him more trouble

From Susan Elliott, Washington

A sign outside the Bottom Line bar in central Washington on Wednesday said it all for critics of the city's mayor: "Surprise. The Mayor is innocent again."

It was the second day in a row that the establishment, which hangs up a news-worthy slogan each day, had focused on Mr Marion Barry and the latest controversy surrounding him as he prepares to run for a fourth term in office. "Mr Mayor," it warned, "you're getting messy with Jesse."

The week has been tough for Mr Barry, already under siege from repeated allegations of corruption and cocaine abuse. In the latest of a long series of critical profiles in the national press, *The Los Angeles Times* last weekend quoted him as ridiculing any aspirations the Rev Jesse Jackson might have to run for mayor of the city.

The reporter, who spent more than 18 hours with the mayor as he went about his duties, also quoted him as making anti-Semitic remarks and commenting on his invin-

ibility in office. Mr Barry, assailed by repeated but unproved allegations that he uses cocaine, said the article was full of "factual inaccuracies and, in some cases, blatant lies".

"Jesse don't wanna run nothing but his mouth," Mr Barry was quoted as saying in the two-page profile, and that Mr Jackson would become "the laughing stock of America" if he ran for mayor.

Musing as to why his second wife still loves him after media accounts of his alleged infidelities, Mr Barry concluded it was because he was good in bed. "I was good then. I'm even better now," the paper reported.

He was also quoted as describing as "Judas" the former fund-raiser who abandoned him and talked to the media.

"Jews too!" he is reported to have said. "Jews should be the last to spread rumours. They've been persecuted themselves. You'd think they'd know better." The remarks were interpreted as

anti-Semitic by Barry critics. The mayor told *The Los Angeles Times* in a letter that he was "shocked" when he read the piece.

The comments, Mr Barry's protests and the newspaper's defence of its article have filled national media all week and provided further ammunition for Mr Barry's polarized supporters and critics.

The editor of the respected West Coast newspaper, Mr Shelby Coffey, said he stood by the article and that the reporter taped the comments as Mr Barry sipped wine in one of his favourite city bars.

The article depicted Mr Barry as a vain and arrogant politician who, when relaxed, uses crude language and makes fun of allegations that he indulges in cocaine and chases women. In addition, it described him lecturing schoolchildren against drug use.

Mr Barry has accused the reporter, Bella Stumbo, of racism and has demanded an apology. "While I am admittedly not the best enunciator

in the world, I do not use the 'black dialect' she chose to attribute to me," he told the newspaper's editor in a letter.

Mr Jackson, who moved to the Washington district from Chicago last year, played down the reported comments and said Mr Barry assured him they were not true. Privately, however, a source of his was quoted in *The Washington Post* as saying he believed the newspaper had accurately quoted the mayor.

Mr Jackson's move raised speculation that he might run for mayor and win because Mr Barry has come under increasing criticism for the way he runs the city and for details of his private life. Mr Jackson has denied he intends to run.

Observers say that even the liberal white and poor black voters who brought Mr Barry to power have started to lose patience with him. But *The Los Angeles Times* found Mr Barry confident of his chances of re-election.

"I'll get 65 per cent of the vote, at least," the article quoted him as saying. "Isn't

anybody in this town can beat me. I'm invincible." The newspaper also quoted him as boasting of his sexual prowess and dismissing a plan to unseat him as a conspiracy among white detractors, especially the mainstream press.

"I'm gonna be like that lion the Romans had - they can keep throwin' their stuff at me you know, but I'll be kickin' their asses, every time in the end, I be sittin' there, lickin' my paws."

Stumbo, aged 46, has worked at *The Los Angeles Times* for 18 years and is renowned for her perseverance in tracking prominent figures and extracting embarrassing comments from them as they relax their public image.

A Californian official, who fell prey in 1981, explained her technique this week in *The Washington Post*. "She's an incredibly charming person. People like me and Marion Barry, with egos the size of a room, she knows how to play that. And that's your fault if you're a grown man."

Japan's old fighters come in from the jungle

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok



Peace at last: Mr Kiyooki Tanaka going home after meeting his daughter, left, in Bangkok.

Two old Japanese war workers, who have spent most of their lives cut off from their families and the outside world, yesterday explained why they fought another war after their country surrendered to the Allies in 1945.

Emerging from their jungle stronghold in southern Thailand, aged 76, and Mr Shigeyuki Hashimoto, 72, said they had done what they had been taught to do.

Speaking through interpreters, they said they ignored the Japanese surrender in 1945. "We could have gone back to Japan then, but we fought on to free Malaysia from British colonial rule," they said. They had been told that Japan began the war in the Far East to end Western domination of Asia.

Mr Hashimoto said: "I am ready to return to Japan because it is a democracy."

The two men, who kept up with world events on short-wave radios, had not been soldiers but munitions workers in a former British ironworks supplying the Japanese occupation army in Malaya.

With 20 to 30 Japanese soldiers who also refused to surrender, they joined the Communist guerrillas planning an uprising against the restored colonial government.

In the next 40 years they fought British, Australian, Thai and Malaysian forces

and are the only survivors of the original group.

Mr Tanaka said his friends in the Communist Party of Malaya "were saddened by my departure, but I have to return to Japan where I will try to do something to promote peace and prevent wars".

Both men said that, when they were too old for combat, they made ammunition and weapons in a guerrilla camp in southern Thailand. The Communists were forced into Thailand in 1959 by Field Marshal Lord Templer's anti-insurgency campaign.

Mr Tanaka and Mr Hashimoto said they thought they would die in the jungle, but five weeks ago the guerrillas signed peace treaties with Malaysia and Thailand and disbanded their army.

The men said they could not have surrendered earlier because that would have let down their guerrilla friends.

Relatives have come from Japan to meet the two old warriors. Mr Tanaka was greeted by his daughter, who was five years old when he went away. Two brothers met Mr Hashimoto, who is now confined to a wheelchair by a blood disorder.

After 45 years together the two are now to be separated. Tomorrow Mr Tanaka will go to Tokyo to live with his wife and daughter; Mr Hashimoto is to live with relatives elsewhere in Japan.

Living by the bar code

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Bar codes were born in America but have blossomed in Japan, where they are transforming life so quickly that futurists predict we may soon have all our financial affairs with the aid of a personal bar code scanned daily by everyone from the milkman to McDonald's.

In Britain, bar-code readers are still more familiar in retailing, where they help to speed supermarket queues.

In Japan they have spread from supermarket check-outs to car parks, leisure resorts, hospitals and karaoke sing-along bars. Whereas chichi holiday complexes elsewhere may give the guest a necklace of beads to use as money at the various concessions in the holiday village, more and more in Japan are bestowing personal bar codes.

At the Renaissance Kanazawa resort in western Japan - a 100,000-square-yard leisure centre with swimming pool, baths, saunas and a theatre - waiters, shop clerks and attendants simply scan the bar-coded bracelet snapped on to the guest's wrist when he or she arrives. On departure, the bracelet is read again and the computer prints out the bill.

Car parks link bar codes to clocks which monitor arrival and departure times and calculate charges.

Researchers at Tokai University are working on a system whereby devices placed under the car chassis could read navigational bar codes painted on roads and flash a local map and instructions such as "20 kilometres straight ahead to Yokohama" on a screen in front of the driver.

In the famous karaoke bars, where would-be Sinatras used to leaf through a menu of songs before telling the mammy-san which soundtrack they would like to accompany, crooners can now just pass an electronic bar-code reader across the song's designated code in the selection book. The hi-fi equipment translates these requests into music. Before, the machine had to be loaded manually, which gave other patrons a respite from the waiting but delayed the debut of many new stars.

Kyoto University Hospital is using bar codes on patient charts to help centralise management of patient records and accounts. Tokyo Disneyland uses them to track the progress of cars on its rides, ensuring there is a safe gap between them.

FRIDAY PAGE

'The moral relativism shown in satanizing Noriega seems more obscene and dangerous than his activities'

About 10 days ago I was in America watching television as a stern-looking American official took some journalists on a tour of the compound of General Manuel Noriega. "Noriega," he told the cameras, "was known to have consorted and availed himself of prostitutes." It's quite peculiar the way some people speak, like police officers who never "stop" a suspect but "apprehend" them.

Then the camera swivelled around some beige rooms, which were described as evidence of the "pretty extravagant lifestyle that we have uncovered." There was a quick shot of a rather ordinary looking bucket, said to have blood in it for satanic rites of some sort. "We uncovered pornography and a substantial amount of cocaine," the official said. I believe they mentioned a bit of Hitler memorabilia and then a screening room and videos. One could hear America shudder.

What on earth is all this about, I wondered. At the time, Noriega was on the lam, he hadn't even turned up in the Vatican Embassy.

It was true that there had been a steady drum roll in America over the past six months as Noriega went from simply being a nasty little pock-marked thug into a monster kingpin in America's drug crisis. It was rather Orwellian, watching the campaign of hate. One day he was America's ally and then, all of a sudden, his face was the one responsible for turning America's schools and ghettos into crack houses.

As dictators go, Noriega was neither the best nor the worst. But the action of the United States in invading a sovereign nation, even one hijacked by a nasty little dictator, is a dubious matter at best and required some very fast talking. The result is that Noriega has been elevated from a horrid snitch to a fully fledged devil.

In turning Noriega into Lucifer, the Americans chose to concentrate on the general's home-life which, to put it mildly, is vulgar. Americans are a puritanical lot and they expect heads of state to have uncomplicated and healthy love lives. Even before Mrs Reagan's book, we all knew

that Nancy adored Ronnie. During the Carter presidency we suffered through the syrup of Jimmy, Rosalind, and their frightful daughter Amy. I heard more than I ever wanted to about how much Jerry Ford stood by Betty while her various ailments were excoriated. It turns out that President John F. Kennedy consorted with a lot of women while married, even the odd gangster's moll, but he is the exception that proves the rule.

Noriega, on the other hand, seems to have been a head of state who came complete with wife, mistress, prostitutes and a personal drug habit. Pornography, drugs and prostitutes aren't, I would venture, news among many of the death spots of the world today, never mind several million American homes. As for his alleged voodoo rituals, well, they may be irrational but then so are the sacraments of the Church of England. The really damning charge, I think, is the notion now put about that the general may be a bisexual connoisseur of young boys.

Still, even given the level of



BARBARA AMIEL

concern in America about child abuse, I'm not sure that is sufficient reason to invade his country. As for the cocaine charges against him, drug dealing is a nasty business, but it might have been more useful to have invaded Colombia or Cuba if eliminating cocaine was the issue. For my money, the moral relativism

shown in satanizing Noriega seems more obscene and dangerous to me than his activities.

Alas for Noriega, he was an unprotected animal. The reasons President Bush gave for his actions against him — the protection of American interests, the flouting of democracy by Noriega, his activities in the drug trade — may all be true. But when it comes to American interests, Fidel Castro is a thousand times more inimical. He has supported a world-wide terrorist industry and has most certainly been involved in drugs. But oddly, Castro's communism has kept him protected both by the power of the Soviet Union and an unholy domestic alliance in America of left-wing church groups and organizations. There was no equivalent support structure for the pock-marked little general.

Mind you, I'd find the notion of the United States invading Cuba as dubious as its action in Panama, although I don't belong to that school of thought that sees a parallel between the invasion of Panama by the United States and

that of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. There is no parallel between a great democracy using force to save or restore a democracy and a powerful tyranny using force to save or impose a tyranny. The will of the people is the only source of political legitimacy and it follows that democracy is the only legitimate form of government. All the same, while tyrannies may not carry political legitimacy, they are still sovereign entities and other nations can't just move in and impose governments on them, even "better" or more legitimate governments.

The problem Noriega ultimately faced was that he misread the times. He thought that because he had something on America, namely his role as a little tattle-tale used by the CIA, he could act as he wished. But while America may not have been spiritually prepared to do something about people who kicked sand in its face during the post-Vietnam period, now it will attack weaklings who kick it. Meanwhile, moral relativism

reigns supreme. Was it only 11 years ago that the Queen rode through the streets of London with President Nicolae Ceausescu and his missus and then pinned a medal on his chest? It was only four years ago that Canada's prime minister, Brian Mulroney, fêted Ceausescu on a state visit and the Canadian governor-general made a speech about how "particularly honoured" Canadians were to receive Ceausescu. As it happened, that was the same week the Canadians closed the trade offices of South Africa.

The Romanians didn't need to create a demography around Ceausescu. Nor, unlike the United States' plans for the general, did they really bother with the pretence of a trial. Mad dogs are shot on sight. Putting them in the dock only tarnishes the court. "We won't stand, dear," were Elena's last recorded words. "General Noriega respectfully refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of this court," was the response of the little snitch's lawyer in Miami. President Bush should have learnt from the Romanians.

First ladies of feminism



Emily Davies (left) was fighting for the education of women long before the suffragettes made their name. Libby Purves met the writer intent on winning greater esteem for this early feminist

Daphne Bennett is slight and white-haired, and when we met she was accompanied by her husband (the retired president of Magdalen College, Oxford) and by a stout shooting stick. "I am not disabled, but I was mugged once and I dislike being alone after dark." It would, however, be a grave mistake to think her fluffy. This is an historian with a passionate regard for original sources and a very combative streak: it was she who brought — and won — the famous lawsuit against Princess Margaret of Kent for plagiarism. Now, equally implacable, she is preaching a fervent doctrine of dissent over the history of the feminist movement.

She has good cause. After Princess Victoria, Prince Albert and Margot Asquith, her

latest biographical subject is an almost forgotten heroine: Emily Davies, the founder of the first women's college, Girton. If you dare to confuse her with Emily Davison, the suffragette who threw herself under the King's horse, Bennett will screech. Quite justifiably: her Emily had, after all, been plugging away in the cause of women's liberation for 50 years before the suffragettes. What is more, Emily Davies would never have dreamed of doing anything so unconstructive as jumping under a racehorse. "She was careful never to alienate men. If men held the power, she realized she must not make them feel small."

Virtually all modern feminist writers infuriate Bennett to the point of incoherence. "Simone de Beauvoir says that feminism in England was 'very timid' until 1903 and the

Pankhursts. Timid? Nonsense! As for Germaine Greer — goodness, that woman spouts the most awful rubbish — she has carried on this stupid idea that nothing happened until those ill-advised suffragettes!" Above all, she rages at the modish idea that the women's movement began in the 1960s. "Sara Maitland wrote that it began somewhere between the death of Marilyn Monroe and that of Janis Joplin. That is an insult to earlier women, and especially to Emily."

Her quarrel with modern feminism is not only about its origins; it is qualitative, too. She greatly dislikes what she sees as an unhealthy emphasis on women's physiological characteristics, the mystical matriarchal earth-motherish ideal. "There is an ignorant neglect of minds, and of the whole issue of women's edu-



Fighting fit: Daphne Bennett dislikes today's emphasis on the mystical earth-motherish ideal

cation." For her, as for Emily Davies a century earlier, education is at the core of the whole issue.

Reading the biography, one is swept into this way of thinking. Emily Davies was born in 1830, a cleric's daughter. Her upbringing was kindly but caged: she was refused a part in her brothers' lessons. "They were going to Oxford, you see. She was to stay at home with her Marjama. Now my own mother," says Bennett parenthetically, "underwent the same sort of thing:

she was brought up by two sweet, kind uncles. She went to school but they simply couldn't swallow the idea of her going to Girton. You see, for women like this there was just no hope."

Emily Davies wrote movingly of how being cut off from education "stifles and chills." Her words about middle-class women's lives ring despairingly true down the decades, right to her biographer's own generation: "Women are not

healthy. It is a rare thing to meet with a lady who does not suffer from headaches, languor, hysteria or some illness showing a want of stamina. Dullness is not healthy... Men think dullness is calm. If they had ever tried what it is to be a young lady, they would know better." "Very true," Bennett says. "You see why I have a passion for her?"

When her father moved to Gateshead, however, Emily found an antidote to dullness. With unworshipful innocence, her mother left her to her own

'As for Germaine Greer, she has carried on this stupid idea that nothing happened until those ill-advised suffragettes!'

devices, and the 11-year-old child in the town, fascinated by the slums. She visited hovels, saw starvation, birth and death, learnt about sex and incest, and angrily took note of the pale women who worked to full term of pregnancy and came home to light the fire and deal with crying children, while their husbands sat slumped in a chair.

All this she candidly described in later life, but her rare and central gift was that, unlike dreamer feminists of her day, she was able to see a clear continuum between the safe, dull, overprotected life of the young lady and the bestial poverty of working-class women. Education, she firmly decided, was the answer to it all: to fit women for better things. It became her mission.

In the 1860s, when the Local Examinations were started, she campaigned for girls to be eligible as well as boys: it is difficult to comprehend the horror this aroused. Male academics said that the girls would collapse, having smaller heads than boys, and that only married men with daughters would be suitable for the sensitive job of examining these frail creatures. At the last moment, Cambridge grudgingly agreed to try it.

By 1869 she had founded her women's college, precur-

sor of Girton, despite warnings that it would turn out dreadful, mannish creatures devoid of the "privacy and clinging for protection... the full ripening of the precious qualities of womanhood," as Dr Dyke Acland put it. George Eliot summoned her with a vague offer of help, but hoped that examinations for girls would not be compulsory, because a woman's constitution would not stand the strain. But Girton was founded, and the rest is history.

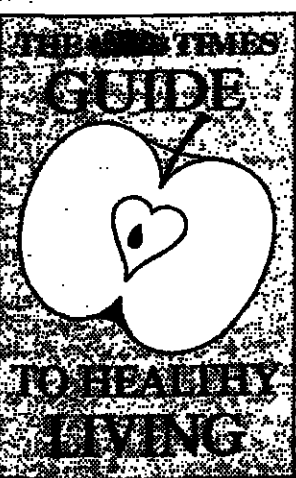
Bennett herself, a child in the Twenties, was allowed to study at home but banned from school, lest it coarsen her. "And my stepmother, who had to support her family when her husband was wounded in the first war, was a teacher but could never be a headmistress because she was married. There were great restrictions, even then."

There is an atmosphere, a breeze blowing through the book, which is oddly familiar. Even in the late Sixties when I studied, I remember noticing odd clues that, long before our strident women's movement, there had been another age of protest. Elderly dons, remembering the triumph when lectures and full degrees were opened to women in the Twenties, had something of Emily's passion. They were often women who, like her, never married but thought it a world well lost for learning; they conveyed energy and optimism, and a post-revolutionary sense that for us girls to be there at all was still a marvellous victory.

It seems a small river to have crossed, now; but we should honour the women who built the stepping-stones.

© Emily Davies and the Liberation of Women is published by Andre Deutsch (£15.95).

Are you fit enough to take on the Nineties?



- On Monday you could begin to change your life
- Our five-part series will help you plan and maintain a healthier lifestyle

- The series will start with an in-depth quiz, helping you to define your own health needs

- Then all areas of health and fitness will be examined, starting with the curse of stress: does all work and no play make you ill?

- Exercise, the environment, the power of the mind and personal relationships will also come under the microscope

Woodland creatures

If you go down to the woods today, will you be able to identify those which come under the careful protection of the Woodland Trust? Yes, if you get hold of a copy of *A Guide to Woodland Trust Properties*, its newly published directory, which features maps, photographs and brief listings of more than 380 woods, ranging from sites of less than one acre to 300 acres. The guide is issued free to members of the trust, which has so far raised more than £10 million for conservation and now acquires, on average, one new woodland area every week. For membership details, contact the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6LL.

Ice of life

Alas, due to EC ice-cream quotas, sweet-toothed conservationists in this country will not yet be able to enjoy an American ice-cream that is also helping to save the rain forests. Ben & Jerry, an ice-cream maker in Vermont, has just added a variety called Rainforest Crunch to its range: it features brazil nuts (taken from the wild) and cashews (harvested in areas being re-forested after they were stripped for cattle grazing). The project is intended to encourage the Brazilians to preserve the rain forest by proving that it can be economically viable as it is.

ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

I spy nitrates

A new book by Nigel Dudley, the environmental writer and researcher, called *Nitrates — the Threat to Food and Water* (Green Print, £4.99), is the first comprehensive guide to nitrate pollution: how and why it occurs, the ecological implications of the build-up of nitrates in food and drinking water, the effects on humans and nitrates' contribution to the greenhouse effect. It also lists practical steps for readers to reduce the amount of nitrates they consume. The book is available through good bookshops, or for £5.49 (inc p&p) from Green Print, The Merlin Press, 10 Malden Road, London NW5 3HR.

Recycling ease

Interface, a Southend, Essex, charity, already collects more than 50 tons of newspapers and magazines each week, door-to-door. Now, in conjunction with Essex Radio and Shell Waste Watch, it is organizing a symposium aimed at producing a co-ordinated plan for recyclable goods. "Everyone wants to recycle their rubbish," Interface says. "But many people only get started if you make it easy."

Josephine Fairley

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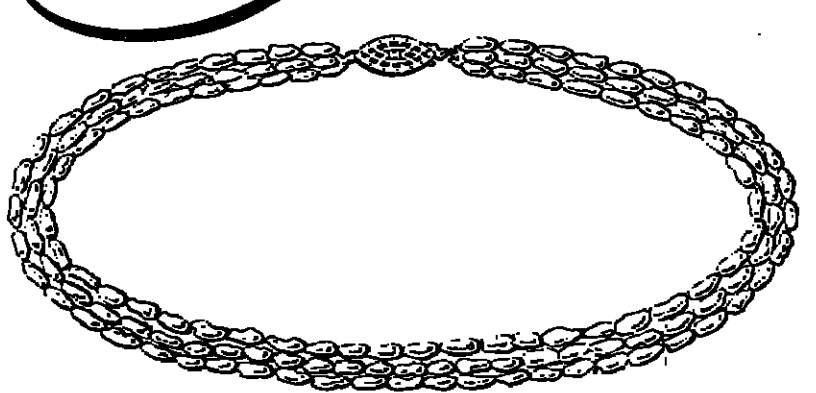
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The race murder that wasn't

Conservative Boston has been rocked by a seemingly clear-cut case of racial violence, made all the more shocking by on-the-spot media coverage, which turned out to be something else altogether. Peter Stothard reports

The story of Charles and Carol Stuart is the most haunting event for Massachusetts since the assassination of John F. Kennedy, a popular Boston columnist wrote this week.

"The 'Stuart murder' may not sound as dramatic as the 'Boston strangler,'" commented a shop assistant on the city's fashionable Beacon Hill, "but in some ways it is worse for us." The fatal shooting of Carol Stuart 10 weeks ago has raised a storm that now rages even more fiercely than when it began. It has made this proud city appear primitive, racist and glib.

On the night of October 23 television viewers were treated to news pictures which were shocking even to those hardened to inner-city crime. A seven-months pregnant white woman was slumped in the passenger seat of a stationery Toyota car. Her dark curly hair was matted with the blood from a bullet wound. Beside her was a man, teeth gritted and chest bare, stiffened with pain from the bullet in his stomach.

Audiences simultaneously heard the just-completed telephone conversation between the wounded man, who did not appear to know where he was, and the police cars who were trying to answer his calls for help. Only by turning on and off their sirens—so that the police telephonist listening on the Toyota's car phone could judge when a police car was getting close—had the police found the scene of the crime. It was sensational broadcast news.

In the newspapers the next day Bostonians were able to read in detail how 29-year-old Charles "Chuck" Stuart, the successful manager of the city's most exclusive furrier, and his 30-year-old wife, Carol, a lawyer, had been happily driving away from their hospital's pre-natal class that night; how a black man in a baseball cap had burst into the back of their car while it waited at

traffic lights and demanded cash and Carol's rings; how the attacker had been panicked into thinking that the pair were undercover police officers and twice pulled the trigger of his .38 pistol.

The impact on public and political consciousness was instant. The mainly black Mission Hill district of Boston, near where the attack took place, was swamped with police conducting street searches until "a chosen few" suspects had been found. The top choice, a 39-year-old black criminal and gun fanatic called Eddie Bennett, had allegedly even confessed to the crime and been seen carrying jewels and a gun from the scene.

The Stuarts, meanwhile, were being canonized as "the Camelot couple" (the ultimate Kennedy-town accolade). According to Father Francis Gallagher, the priest who had known "Chuck" since his days as an altar boy, "they were young people with the world on a lead." Charles Stuart was now a hero. It was reported from hospital how, 17 days after the shooting, he wheeled himself painfully to the outside of his dying baby son, born prematurely by Caesarean section, but who never recovered from oxygen loss during the shooting. Carol had died soon after the birth. The smashed family was the quintessence of white middle-class values at the mercy of black ghetto crime.

Politicians plied the message for all that it might be worth. Republican leaders called for the death penalty to be restored. Democrats used the new threat to public safety as justification for a tax increase. Boston's Irish-American mayor, Raymond Flynn, believed that the publicity might help him to succeed Michael Dukakis as Massachusetts governor. Even Dukakis himself, battered during the American presidential campaign for his alleged indifference towards black-on-white crime, attended Carol's funeral at Father



Disillusion in Camelot: Charles and Carol Stuart and, inset, Eddie Bennett, wrongly suspected of the attack

Gallagher's red-brick church of St James, close to her family home.

The packed congregation was read the husband's last tribute to his wife: "I miss you and I love you." Of her killer, he said that "in our souls we must forgive this sinner because he would too."

Last Thursday the same Charles Stuart was himself found dead in the Mystic River under Boston's Tobin Bridge.

A suicide note, left in a new white Nissan car bought with the insurance pay-out on Carol's life, did not admit to the killing but described the strain of the police hunt. But the dead man's younger brother confessed to police. Charles Stuart, it transpired, had shot his wife in the head. Rather less efficiently he had shot himself in the stomach while aiming at his foot. His brother had been on

hand to take away the gun and the stolen jewels. The black assailant, whose identity and guilt was by now all but established in the public's mind, had never existed.

Suddenly the city shuddered through a psychological gear change. Spontaneous black protests were quickly reorganized into community demands that police apologize to the people of Mission Hill, and that financial recompense be paid to the slandered district. Mayor Flynn and his men, the protesters said, had too readily jumped to the conclusion that "a nigger pulled the trigger". The mayor, who had traditionally enjoyed good relations with the black community, was reluctant. He spluttered about how he had already "addressed the apology issue". His annual state-of-the-city message needed hasty rewriting

for delivery last night, and his gubernatorial ambitions evaporated with every new word he wrote.

The Boston media felt foolish and betrayed. They now set off determinedly to show yesterday's "Camelot husband" as today's diabolical fiend. Why, for example, had the "assailant" shot a woman in the head before shooting a man in the stomach? Why in all the immediate publicity after the shooting had Stuart not expressed worry or grief for his wife?

Friends and family members were discovered to have known about life insurance policies, although initially these were thought to be too small to explain such a crime.

To complete the now hopelessly film-like plot, a "stunning blonde" girlfriend was discovered, a figure

'The smashed family was the quintessence of white middle-class values at the mercy of black ghetto crime. Politicians plied the message for all that it might be worth. Republican leaders called for the death penalty to be restored'

skater and top university graduate who had sometimes worked with Stuart at the fashionable Kakas fur shop. In addition to buying the new white car, he had used the first part of the insurance money to pay \$800 for a gold brooch and chain.

For Father Gallagher, standing among the red candles of the church in which he had married and buried Carol Stuart, this was "pure evil". "I've been a priest for more than 40 years," he said. "I've seen a lot but I know now that anyone who thinks they've seen everything is a fool."

The story of the murder soon became two very different inquiries. The first was a very visibly determined police hunt. Out in the ice-strewn sea marshes of Boston's inner suburbia, divers searched for the gun and, after six days struggling against the fierce tidal flow, found the famous .38 pistol by the so-called "Dizzy" railway bridge from which the younger Stuart brother had hurled it.

A few—but socially important—miles away, in the smart outer suburb of Reading to which the Stuarts had moved after their marriage, police questioned neighbours around the slate-blue clapboard house. A Christmas wreath of blue teddybears was still on the front door. Inside, evidence of more insurance policies was found.

At Kakas Furs, in the sickly atmosphere of scented floor polish and stuffed animal trophies, the owners had to explain when they had noticed that the office gun was missing from the office safe. It had been kept unused for 10 years, they said, and Charles Stuart had the key.

But, as the police case began to clear, the second line of inquiry, the self-examination carried out by the people of Boston, continued all the stronger.

This is a proudly secretive city in a state whose law, unlike many other states, does not force family

members to inform upon each other's crimes. How had that encouraged the almost successful plot?

The city of the Kennedys has a specific history of racial tension entwined with its politics. The ultra-liberal policies for which Massachusetts is often ridiculed throughout the nation are a relatively recent arrival. Beneath the Democratic party surface is the still strong, clannish, Irish-American sense of self-help and beggar-my-neighbour.

Had the media shown their own prejudice? Most denied it. Had they simply "put scepticism on the shelf"? The *Boston Globe* said it felt "duped".

What seems certain was the role of the television cameras. By happening to be in the position to film the murder scene they had raised awareness of the story and, more importantly, etched a particular version of it on the public mind. The film became a movie—and popular movies need neat endings if the audience is not to feel cheated.

The most likely true end to this story is now the most simple. Along with life insurance policies worth almost \$700,000, books about starting a restaurant business have been discovered at the Stuart home.

Like the central figure in Theodore Dreiser's novel, *An American Tragedy*, Charles Stuart wanted to better himself in life and was prepared to kill his pregnant wife in order to do so.

But the questions will not stop yet. Father Gallagher has asked his congregation if "for just one day" they will forbear to speculate about the Stuart case. With "Chuck and Carol" book contracts piling up in New York and Boston, and election campaigns running till the autumn, even that seems a vain hope.

A fight to be equal

David Blankett, the blind Member of Parliament, was, in his own words, "an angry youngster who wanted to change the world", by the age of 16. His father had been dead for four years—the victim of an explosion at work—and Blankett had been at a boarding school for the blind.

In an interview with Ray Connolly in *The Times* tomorrow, Blankett explains that at school he

became a stirrer for good causes and led a delegation about the quality of the meals. It was the beginning of a pig-headed refusal to take No for an answer, to prove that he could be on equal terms with everyone else.

"I didn't want to be better than anyone else, just equal. And I wanted to show my mother that I could do it, that I could achieve and that I could do something to help and look after her."

"I wasn't sure whether I would succeed, didn't know what was going to happen to me or whether I was going to be able to look after myself."

Blankett's story from childhood to Parliament is told in *The Times* Review section tomorrow.

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Africa's lion in waiting

Nicholas Bethell reports on a rare meeting with Nelson Mandela, symbol of the struggle against apartheid



Sickly and 71: an artist's impression of how Mandela looks today

I met Nelson Mandela in Pollsmoor prison, near Cape Town, five years ago. I remember waiting for him, surrounded by men in khaki uniforms with gold stars on their shoulder tabs. I could not understand a word they said, as they spoke Afrikaans. But I could sense their expectation in their hushed voices and nervous behaviour, as if a ceremony was about to start.

Then suddenly Mandela was there, a man about 6 ft tall, his hair silvery slightly at the sides, young-looking for his age, in neatly pressed shirt and trousers, carrying a clipboard and paper for his notes.

The guards moved to one side as he entered the room, as if deferring to a more senior officer. It was a moment that set the tone for the next three hours. Mandela was a prisoner, but very much the host and the man in charge. I was a guest in his home and the white South Africans his indoor staff.

It was exactly five years ago and Mandela was a sprightly 66, before his prostate trouble and his tuberculosis. It was his third year in Pollsmoor, after his transfer from the infamous camp on Robben Island, a few miles out into Table Bay, where he had spent the early years of his detention in very harsh conditions, working in the lime quarry.

On the island he and the other "security prisoners" worked from 7 am to 4 pm in the quarry, wearing only shirt, shorts and sandals, with no socks or underwear. It was cold in the winter and the food was inadequate. They were driven on by the guards and anyone "slacking" was put into solitary confinement.

Conditions improved in the mid-Seventies. Mandela was allowed to study and, eventually, he was excused hard labour. The Red Cross gained access to him. By the time I met him, he was being kept in reasonable conditions, with five other African National Congress men in a large cell facing on to a courtyard where he could play table-tennis and grow vegetables in large pots. They had books, magazines and a radio that could only receive South African stations.

I found no trace of bitterness in the man, only a determination to rise above his quarter-century loss of freedom, or maybe to use it to illustrate and intensify his struggle against apartheid. Furthermore, although he was fighting fiercely enough, his ideas for South Africa's future were moderate, far more conciliatory than the mainstream ANC demand for an immediate election to a unitary government.

He wanted not to transfer power, but to share it. "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, those in South Africa

belong here," he said. "This is their home. We want them to live here with us and share power with us." He paid tribute to the whites who had built South Africa's prosperity, and proposed evolutionary change, rather than sudden disruption.

The ANC leaders are a disparate group. Some, like Oliver Tambo, are Christians. But many others are Stalinists of the pre-Gorbachev era who encourage attacks on whites in their own homes and the victory by "the flames of revolution". Mandela eschewed such fiery rhetoric, favouring talks with all South African groups, even Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha movement, which the ANC has denounced as a quisling for its relationship with the South African government.

Even in 1964, charged with treason and on trial for his life, Mandela spoke with statesman-like poise, not as the terrorist fanatic that Pretoria has portrayed him to be all these decades. Mandela told the court how in 1960-61, after the Sharpeville massacre and South Africa's decision to declare itself a republic, blacks found themselves forced to ask the question: "What do we do now?" They could yield to the government's violence, or they could fight.

He admitted to having planned a campaign of sabotage against electricity and water installations, and to organizing explosions in Johannesburg and Durban in December 1961. One saboteur had been accidentally killed. There had been no white casualties. At that stage the ANC's armed struggle was aimed at property.

"I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence," he said at his trial. "I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the situation that had arisen after many years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by the whites."

He maintained his support for armed struggle, but within stricter limits than those practised by the ANC's fighters. For instance, he expressed regret for the May 1983 bomb explosion which killed 17 people, including 12 civilians, in Pretoria. "We aim for buildings or property," he said. "It may be that someone is killed in a fight, in the heat of battle. But we do not believe in assassinations."

Unlike his wife Winnie, he has never supported the "necklace" killings of blacks alleged to have worked for the government, often as minor local officials in the townships. An assassination would only be justified, he told me, in the case of an informer who was actually endangering the lives of ANC fighters.

In 1985 President Botha offered to release Mandela on condition that he renounced violence. Mandela made it clear to me that he was prepared to recommend a ceasefire as soon as the government legitimized the ANC and opened talks with it. But there was violence on the government's side too, he said, and he would not humiliate the ANC by asking it to lay down its arms unilaterally. And, that being the case, he could not break with the ANC by

renouncing the struggle himself. He is, after all, the ANC's president.

He has moved away from the communist sympathies he held 30 years ago. "I am a socialist and I believe in a classless society," he told me. "But I see no reason to belong to any political party at the moment. Businessmen and farmers, white or black, can also join our movement to fight racial discrimination. It would be a blunder to narrow the movement."

He added: "Britain has helped us, under Mrs Thatcher as well as under socialist governments, by condemning apartheid on principle. We may have different ideas about the methods that should be used, but the most important thing is to condemn apartheid outright."

After our talk, I was taken to see Mandela's communal cell. We walked in slow procession up flights of stairs and round corners, with Mandela leading the way as if showing me round his home. I met his five cellmates. One of them was Walter Sisulu, Mandela's co-defendant in 1964, who was himself released last year. They mentioned a few problems. There was a damp patch on one wall. The letters they received were being censored, words and whole sentences cut out of the paper with scissors. One letter looked as if it had been through a shredder.

"Are there any other complaints? No one wants to go home?" Mandela asked jokingly to his friends as we got ready to leave the cell. We walked out across the yard to a metal door in the wall. "Well, this is my frontier. This is where I must say goodbye," he said. I shook his hand, promised to write and walked out into the bright Cape sunshine.

I have written regularly these past five years, and I know that some letters at least have reached him. He has written back several times. I am told, but no letter has arrived. According to H.J. Coetsee, South Africa's minister of justice, letters from security prisoners "are sometimes subject to delay". I have been told by a senior South African official that the letters, one dating from 1985, are at last on their way.

Helen Suzman, the recently retired liberal South African politician, once described Mandela as "our country's only hope". That was probably true five years ago. I hope it is still true. But he will be 72 in July. He has had illnesses and operations since I saw him. I have a terrible fear that the South African government has, as usual, left things far too late.

Lord Bethell is a member of the European Parliament's Human Rights Committee.

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NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Journalists ringing the Northern Ireland Office are to be spared the shock of hearing a Government press officer announce himself as Ian Paisley. The 23-year-old graduate, who shares the name with his father, the irrepresible MP for Antrim North, has had his job application turned down by senior civil servants. But, in an equally unlikely move, Paisley junior has landed a job as a journalist on *The Irish Press*, the paper founded by Eamon de Valera who, as the father of the Irish Republic, is not a name widely revered in the Paisley household.

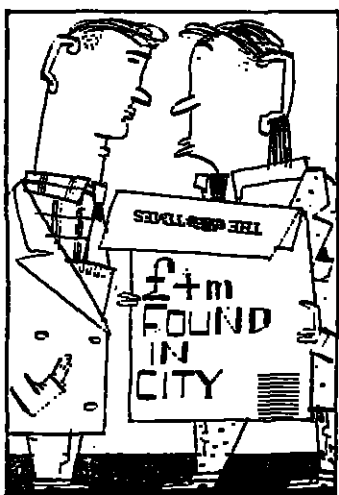
In an even worse blow to family honour, Paisley's first assignment is a 1,000-word article on the 12 things he most likes about Dublin. The only small consolation for Paisley senior is that his errand son could only come up with six.

Following last week's report from the independent analysts, Public Policy Consultants, which found that Labour's policies would impose huge burdens on business, I learn that the shadow chancellor, John Smith, has pulled out of a seminar organized by PPC and *Business Magazine* to give Labour the opportunity to explain its policies to a selected group of 130 leading businessmen.

But, Smith tells me, the problem is merely one of diary dates and should not be taken to imply that Labour is in any way shy of explaining its policies to the business community; in fact, says Smith, he already spends huge amounts of his time in boardrooms and at City dining tables explaining how a Labour government would get manufacturing industry on its feet again.

Bruce Kent of the CND, who embarrassed Neil Kinnock by successfully moving a resolution calling for huge defence cuts at last year's party conference, will not, it seems, be causing further embarrassment by joining the Labour benches in the Commons. Kent tells me that he has turned down invitations to stand for Labour in two London marginal seats, Hornsey and Putney, and says "the best contribution I can make to disarmament is to continue working for CND".

BARRY FANTONI



"Probably they only noticed it was missing when it came to paying for lunch."

If you spot the Conservative backbencher Michael Mates on television looking thoughtful during Prime Minister's Questions, don't imagine he is pondering Mrs Thatcher's words of wisdom; it is much more likely that he is wrestling with the cryptic intricacies of seven across or 10 down. Last week he fulfilled one of his life's two remaining ambitions by winning *The Times* weekly prize crossword competition. Mates tells me that he submits about 45 entries a year, and has been doing so for years, but that this is the first time his name has been picked out of the hat. His remaining ambition, by the way, is to appear on *Desert Island Discs*.

One who has already made it on to *Desert Island Discs* is Labour's Dennis Skinner, whose performance on the programme last weekend was one for connoisseurs to savour. Skinner, who turns down invitations to appear on the likes of *Wogan* on the grounds that it is "gimmicky", accepted Sue Lawley's invitation as the opportunity to make serious political points in an entertaining way.

His choice included non-political songs from Barbra Streisand, Al Jolson and Stevie Wonder, and a Frankie Laine number which Skinner himself used to sing as an amateur crooner on the Derbyshire pub and club circuit. But politics reappeared in a song called *Daddy, What Did You Do In The Strike?*, recorded by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger as a tribute to Arthur Scargill and the miners during their year-long dispute.

The usually comprehensive BBC record library said it did not have the record, the first line of which runs "It was in the year of 1984 when the **** hit the fan". But Skinner is not a man to be deterred so easily; he provided his own copy. The repeat of the programme, incidentally, for readers who want to hear the ditty, is on Radio 4 this morning.

The trouble with straws in the wind is that anyone spotting a percentage in gleaming them might well end up with enough to make a brick. And a brick in the wind is, as any metaphorician will tell you, a very different kettle of fish.

As I write this, I have before me a heart-warming photograph of a woman with a telephone in her hand, and a little girl on her knee. The woman is smiling, and the child is waving. An ordinary enough maternalistic vignette you will say, provided you can summon the requisite pomposity, but that is because you do not know the half of it. The half of it is that this winsome snapshot is not ordinary at all; it is, in fact, the photograph of a video-telephone screen, and the other half of it, therefore, is that, somewhere, on another video-telephone screen to which this one is connected, there will be a complementary

picture of the smile/wave. Probably daddee.

Which suddenly makes it a mite less heart-warming; for something chill has begun to creep up an artery. Not, of course, that Taurus Business Systems of Thurnby think so: Taurus Business Systems of Thurnby believes its video-telephone to be "the most exciting communications device of the 1990s" (a startlingly confident claim, given the infancy and the strong likelihood that well before 1999 the Japanese will have perfected an egg capable of entertaining you with a hologram projection of Hoagy Carmichael singing *Stardust* while you wait for it to boil).

There is, however, no praiseworthy Taurus's further claim, likewise taken from the elegant leaflet they sent me as a potential customer, that "communications will never be the same again." In the electronics war, retreat is unknown, and if the video-phone catches on it will never catch off. These days, not only is non-necessity the mother of invention; indispensability is its grandchild. Especially with telephones. You have only to travel Inter-City: the carriage is a horizontal phone booth. Every time the train lurches, 200 people squawk: "Hallo, hello, are you still there?" A few years ago, this would have been a successful revue song.

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees little cheer for Gorbachov in Lithuania

Rendezvous at Vilnius

accept secession. In that context Gorbachov's visit to Lithuania seems incongruous: rather as if President Lincoln after Fort Sumter had gone to the state house in Charleston to address the legislature of South Carolina. It is assumed that Gorbachov expects his Lithuanian comrades to help him save face. If so, he must be a desperate man. No doubt the Lithuanian comrades would like to help Gorbachov, if only for fear of finding something worse in power in Moscow. But that consideration must necessarily give way, in the context of Lithuanian secession, to local considerations.

Putting it more brutally, the Lithuanian comrades will be thinking of their own skins, not Gorbachov's. They are at present basking in unusual — and probably ephemeral — popularity, precisely as a result of their party's secession from the Soviet Communist Party. If the Lithuanian comrades made significant concessions to Gorbachov, they would be throwing away their

new-found popularity, and ensuring that Sajudis — the Lithuanian nationalist movement — wins by a landslide in the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, due on February 24. (Presumably the successful Sajudis candidates will not take their seats, but will interpret their victories as elections to an independent Lithuanian parliament. There is an Irish precedent: Sinn Féin candidates for Irish seats in the United Kingdom elections of 1918 did not take their seats at Westminster but set up Dáil Éireann.) The Lithuanian comrades are unlikely to sacrifice themselves for Gorbachov, and Gorbachov is therefore unlikely to bring back any substantial concession from Vilnius to Moscow.

I believe that the disintegration of the Soviet Union is now irreversible and that its pace is likely to increase after Gorbachov's return from Vilnius. I agree with "Z", the author of the important article in *Dandelion*,

an excerpt from which was published on this page yesterday, that Soviet communism is unsalvageable. I am puzzled, however, by the author's apparent assumption that the Soviet Union will pass from communism to capitalism in one piece, albeit with great difficulty. I strongly dissent from the romantic metaphor of the conclusion (to the excerpt published): "The Soviet world's transition to normality will be a long time coming. The party, though now dyed with the hues of *glasnost* and democratization, will cling to the bitter end, like some poisoned tunic, around the bodies of nations it has enfolded in its embrace for so many decades."

What is wrong with that metaphor is the characteristically American assumption that all the poison comes from communism. In reality the bodies of nations beginning to break away from the Soviet world have plenty of poison in them anyway. It was not from Marx or Lenin that Bulgarians learned to

hate Turks; Romanians, Hungarians, Georgians, Ossetians, Azeris, Armenians, and vice versa in all cases. Nor was it from Marx and Lenin that Muslims and Christians, or Orthodox and Catholics, learned to hate one another.

With certain major exceptions — mainly in Stalin's last years — the Soviet system, and the Marxist-Leninist ideology which served it as a means of communication and as a discipline, effectively discouraged the expression of national, ethnic and religious animosities, even *anti-religious* animosity has been discouraged for many years. *Glasnost*, by allowing political nationalism to find its voice, blew the Soviet Union apart.

For some, but not all, of those in the process of ceasing to be Soviet citizens, this is a happy outcome. The Baltic republics seem likely to become working democracies and, in due course, members of the European Community. The future of the rest of the Soviet Union is much

more doubtful. The disintegration is bound to be an untidy, painful process. In each potentially independent republic there are substantial ethnic minorities — like the Armenians in Azerbaijan, or indeed the Russians in Lithuania. These are likely to emigrate or be forced out, bloodily in some cases. As the process develops, nationalist passions will rise, often accompanied by religious acrimony. Intolerant right-wing parties will find conditions favourable to them, not least in Russia itself. Stable democracies are quite unlikely anywhere to the south and east of the Baltic republics, within the Soviet Union.

The 1990s will see, in Europe, a situation more like the 1890s than most of the 20th century. A than most of the 20th century, it will be looking eastward into a vast zone of instability, but also of opportunity, mainly economic, but political also. Already last week a headline in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* read "Russia's Germans will no longer be ignored". We are likely to hear more along these lines.

Contemplating those prospects, with their explosive possibilities, I could wish that Gorbachov succeeds in his mission in Vilnius, and begins to check the disintegrating processes. But I fear that is most unlikely.

Bernard Levin on a curious case that is having trouble emerging from a Scotland Yard pending file

Justice under a blue cloud

Let us make ourselves comfortable. No tight clothing, a favourite armchair, perhaps a drink in hand. The cat may be curled up nearby. Music? Yes, but nothing too grave; possibly one or two of the unaccompanied cello suites of Bach. Lights not too bright, but nothing that could be gloomy. Above all, we must be relaxed.

Right, then; the scene is set. In this peaceful mood, so conducive to musing upon fate and similar subjects, let us summon up a sense of wonder, even of awe, and contemplate the life, career and future of Police Constable David Judd.

PC Judd recently figured in a remarkable case; it was remarkable for several reasons, each of which I shall touch upon. The first is that he has established a new record for damages awarded against the police, and he did not merely smash the record — he doubled it. The previous highest figure anywhere in this country for damages against police malfeasance was £50,000; Judd has upped it to exactly twice as much — a full hundred grand. (You may be tempted to say that such a record will never be surpassed. Don't be so sure.)

His present record is not only large, but dramatic. The huge sum was paid to a Mr Rupert Taylor, a gentleman of — ahem — colour. PC Judd had arrested him in Notting Hill — it is not clear why — and at the station our neighbourhood bobby had him strip-searched and subjected him to verbal abuse, though not physical assault (*ah, monsieur,*

quelle délicatesse!). Then he produced some cannabis, announced that it was Mr Taylor's, and booked him for possessing illegal drugs.

Alas, Mr Taylor turned out to be a non-smoking, teetotal, lay-preacher BBC engineer on his way to play dominoes with a friend; a man quite uncannily unlikely to be in the habit of rolling a joint. He was, understandably, acquitted when his case came up, and he then brought a suit against the Met. The result was £10,000 for wrongful arrest, £20,000 for malicious prosecution, and £70,000 as exemplary damages to mark the gravity of PC Judd's behaviour.

So far, so good; replenish your drink and give the cat another sardine, and we shall continue. It now transpires that only a week before the Taylor judgment a more modest sum (£3,500) by way of damages, for a very similar action, was awarded to a Mr Lee. On this occasion, no fewer than four officers were involved, but you will be interested to hear that PC Judd was one of them. (I can find no information about Mr Lee's trade; perhaps he was a distinguished brain surgeon, or the captain of a lifeboat.)

Now it gets even more interesting. On the Notting Hill beat there have been a series of cases, over a number of years, involving prosecutions for possessing drugs which have ended in acquittal of the person charged. That is, a jury has

decided that the accused did not have in their possession the drugs that were said by the police to have been found on them; rack my brain as I will, I cannot understand, then, how the cannabis got into their pockets. (It can't, for instance, have fallen off a lorry.) Incidentally, at the time of this writing, PC Judd had not yet been suspended, nor had it been decided whether disciplinary proceedings were to be taken against him, though more than a month has passed since the case, with its damages, ended.

Well, well, well, well, well. Just as Mr Taylor was getting his damages (you can buy a lot of dominoes for £100,000), it was announced that Mr Geoffrey Dear, until now Chief Constable of the West Midlands, is to join the Inspectorate of Constabulary, in an impressively high position; his remit is to improve public relations and the quality of the service of the police, not necessarily in that order. Mr Dear, you may recall, was the chief constable who recently felt obliged to disband his Serious Crime Squad, some members of which appeared to have quite misunderstood the meaning of their unit's name, being convinced that their job was to commit serious crimes.

Let us go back to the damages awarded to our hero's cleaning victim. He had not been beaten, and it is very unlikely that a man of his quality would have lost the respect accorded to him by his friends, colleagues and neighbours, merely for being prosecuted but acquitted. In



other words, the £100,000 award was, and was intended to be, not just compensatory, but salutary.

There is an analogy here, and few will fail to spot it. Some of the huge damages awarded in recent libel actions against newspapers have clearly been given not so much against the defendants, for damage to their reputation, but as a general condemnation of the Press in general and the tabloids in particular. *Crime ab uno, disce omnes.*

Press the analogy; juries are convinced that all the news-

papers are rotten, dishonest and full of lies, which is plainly nonsense. But that belief, however unfair, should make newspapers seek urgent ways of correcting the false impression, before it becomes so deep-rooted that it can never be erased.

And something like that seems to be happening to the police. It is no use their parroting the old excuse: it's only a few rotten apples in the barrel. The public is rapidly becoming convinced — though unjustly — that the barrel is filled with rotten ones. And so far from it being assured that the

hunt for the rotten ones, be they many or few, is being pursued with due diligence, it sees Scotland Yard flapping a limp hand when asked whether PC Judd is to be subject to disciplinary proceedings, and declaring that it is too soon to say.

Because here is where the analogy breaks down. It would be a pity if the public continued to believe that every newspaper was as bad as the worst, but a pity cannot damage the fabric of our society. If the public is convinced that the police as a whole are corrupt and crooked, and cannot be disabused of that conviction, then we are in very serious trouble. For when the scent from the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad mingles with that from Notting Hill, it will take a great deal more than a public relations exercise to make the result smell like jasmine.

Of course there must be safeguards to ensure justice for officers accused or under suspicion; disciplinary proceedings are a parallel to a trial. But there is no possible excuse for the failure of his superiors, the instant Mr Taylor's award was announced in the court, to make a statement declaring that PC Judd was suspended from all duties until the appropriate tribunal was set up; and that public declaration should have been combined with a private message to PC Judd that he may have missed his vocation, and if he wished to resign from the force immediately, no obstacle would be put in his way.

If the public's confidence in the police is lost, I cannot see how it can be regained. And if it is not regained, the damage to our entire way of life would be immense, so vital is the need for a force which can be relied upon; by which I mean one that does not contain officers whose actions lead to a court case costing the Met £10,000 for wrongful arrest, £20,000 for malicious prosecution, and £70,000 as a mark of disapproval of the police. In general.

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Salman Rushdie and the short arm of the law

Robert Kilroy-Silk asks the DPP to take action on Muslim threats

Why is the Director of Public Prosecutions taking so long to decide whether to prosecute those Muslims who have called publicly for Salman Rushdie to be murdered? What can he be afraid of?

It has been more than three months since Dr Kalim Siddiqui called for Rushdie's death at a meeting in Manchester. Others, many others, have made the demand before and since. Only last month, the priest of the Jamia Mosque in Birmingham said: "Islamic law says he should be killed. I agree with that."

There is, then, no doubt about where many Muslims stand on the issue. The question is whether such demands constitute a criminal offence. The burden of the demands is such that the DPP should at least look seriously at what has been said.

Section 4 of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act, as amended by section 5 (10) of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, says in effect that whosoever shall solicit, encourage, persuade or

endeavour to persuade, or shall propose to any person he murder any other person, whether he be a subject of Her Majesty or not... shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, being convicted, they shall be liable to imprisonment for life.

My dictionary defines "solicit" as "to provoke, to stir up to action". Whatever weasel words some fanatics now employ in order to retain their reputation as militant Muslims while escaping the full consequences of English law, there can be no doubt about the fact that they want Rushdie dead. They have also "provoked" and "stirred up" others to take the same view.

There have been frequent and repeated calls for Rushdie's death at large, emotion-racked and sometimes riotous public meetings of Muslims in this country. Many have been attended by the young and impressionable, and it would be

surprising if at least some had not been provoked or stirred up by the inflammatory language to which they had been exposed.

The placards proudly carried through British streets screaming "Kill Kill Kill" demonstrate the effects of such provocation. So does the statement of 14-year-old Mohammed Omi, who stepped out of the meeting at the Jamia Mosque last month to announce that: "He should be killed, but I'm not old enough to do it. When I'm 20 or 21 I will kill him." This boy has obviously been provoked and stirred up by the ranting of the mullahs.

But that is not surprising. It would be amazing if they did not feel like that after the elders of the Muslim faith asserted that Rushdie had gravely insulted Islam and that the shur could be removed only by his death. It would not be surprising if, after the frenzy that has been whipped up, some would-be hero, a

hothead, a dimwit, attempted to take the law into his own hands. He would know that whatever the British law might say or do, he would be thought a hero, a historic figure, a person to be applauded by his co-religionists.

Since the provocation, stirring up, persuasion and encouragement of such men into this way of thinking is an offence, those causing the provocation must be charged. There can be no equivocation and no backing down. It is far too important to allow any room for cringing, wringing of hands or compromise. There can be no place here for appeasement.

The campaign against Salman Rushdie that is being waged by some Muslims, with its intimidation and intolerance, is nasty and offensive. It has not been sufficiently vigorously opposed by those who believe in — and depend upon — the maintenance of decent civilized values. It has

even been given an air of respectability and justification by the craven attitude of some of the feeble members of the Labour Party.

The result is that many Muslims now feel not only that the politics of the mob, of bullying and intimidation, are acceptable, but that they are effective. They feel that they can act with impunity, that they can win. It may be that they can. There seem to be so many cowards in the ranks of those who should be defending free speech and the rule of law that the Muslim fundamentalists can trample over both without difficulty.

This must not be allowed to continue. The most minor traffic offender, the petty thief, even the litter bug, is, quite rightly, subject to the law and hauled before the courts. Those who knowingly incite others to consider committing murder should be treated in the same way.

There may, it is true, be some consequences for race relations. These will have to be faced. We cannot pick and choose which laws to apply. We certainly cannot play the game of turning a blind eye to the law when its application is considered to be offensive to a particular group. If we do, there will be no rule of law at all. The non-enforcement will be a signal of weakness, a sign that the government and law officers have no guts and lack the courage to defend the rule of law. If we cannot defend the rule of law, what can we be trusted with? Failure to act now would be tacitly to condone a campaign for the death of a writer. If that is allowed, then other lesser forms of intimidation will also be thought permissible.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has the opportunity to call a halt to this slide now. He must take it. If he does not, then he will share responsibility for the consequences. Let us hope that these will not include Salman Rushdie's death.

Faltering at the last interface



ALAN COREN

A few years ahead, the scenario will be immeasurably ghastlier. Yesterday I rang Taurus — as yet invisibly, so that when the chap said video-phones were really catching on fast, I could not tell

whether or not he was looking me square in the eye. But I give him the benefit of the doubt, because I know that my doubt has always ended up as somebody's benefit.

All I have to do is to say: "Desktop computers, don't make me laugh!" or "People walking around with stereos on their heads, pull this one!" for the Nikkei average to leap 1,000 points.

Thus, though it now costs £994.75 to buy two video-telephones able to transmit talking pictures to each other, and though very few people have them, very soon it will cost £11.99, and everyone will have them.

Why is this Luddite dingbat railing against so wondrous a boon? You will even now be crying: "Does he not want to be able to blow kisses at his distant loved ones while he is celebrating the closure of his deal with Happitrash Novelties (Kyoto) Inc?" Well, possibly, depending perhaps on whom I am celebrating it with at the Kyoto end, but are we still so green that we cannot see the iron truth in the velvet marketing? Con the leaflet deeper: "Use this video to see goods for sale, to choose a photographic model for an assignment, or to see new products in three dimensions."

No need, I feel, to dot i's and cross t's, where the conjunction of

eyes and tease is only too apparent. The phone rings, unbidden, in 1996, and who is this but a man in a camel-hair coat offering me a double-glazed Skoda loft extension, or a fabulous chance to win a sun-soaked weekend on the Gdansk Riviera? If, that is, it is not ravishing Sharon Chantelle murmuring to me from her delightful leatherette boudoir?

Nor is it merely exploitative intrusion we have to fear: the present telephone's intimacy is its greatest boon, it cannot see us when we cover the mouthpiece and concoct excuses, she's not here right now, I have mumps, we're going to be in Mongolia that night, the cheque went off yesterday... What will you do in 1996, stick a hand over the lens while you prevaricate and lie? "The possibilities are endless!" shrieks the Taurus leaflet. Well, yes; and the probabilities?

هكذا من الاصل

THE ARTS/ROCK

Why is the music press pouring scorn on "coffee table rock"? Steve Turner speaks up for maturity

Rock and rolls and wrinkles

There has been wailing and gnashing of teeth by some rock critics as the Eighties have come under review.

The main cause of the agony has been what might be called the Phil-Collinization of rock and roll: the fact that the bulk of the biggest acts in the world are now middle-aged. It does not worry the general public much, but it worries writers who see it as an indication of falling standards and lost ideals.

They think back to the days when singers had enough hair to consider a choice of styles, when fathers shouted "turn that racket down", and local councils put bans on the music. Then they see Prince Charles shaking hands with nice guy Phil and they begin to weep.

Why, oh why, they cry, are young people buying the music of a 50-year-old woman (Tina Turner) or a 40-year-old man (Bruce Springsteen)? Why did it have to be those "wrinkle rockers", the Rolling Stones, who mounted the most lucrative tour of America last year? Why did Pete Townshend not expire peacefully before he got old? Oddly, the lament rarely extends to black male artists. There have been no calls for James Brown, now 56, to seek early retirement, and at 72 John Lee Hooker is counted a living legend. BB King had to wait until he was 64 to support U2 on tour.

Another trend worrying the critics is the ageing of the white rock audience. Rock is now bought by executives with CD players; over-25s dominate the album-buying market. The music that once shook the walls of the city now gently vibrates the cocktail cabinet.

They also report appalling concert scenes: unfashionable people, some with receding hairlines, who sit down in their seats during slow numbers and who clap their hands rather than punch the ozone layer. There have even been sightings of parents taking their children to see



Phil Collins: critics battle to understand the "Collinization" of rock

The Who and Paul McCartney.

If the atmosphere had been a bit more abandoned and boisterous this could almost have been the Proms. "I wrote a review of McCartney's current audience."

"(They) looked the sort that wouldn't recognize a designer if one inscribed his or her name on their casual leatherwear."

This snuffy attitude — middle-aged used as a term of derision rather than to describe a time of life — is itself based on a rather old premise, that rock is a music by and for

young people, with lyrics rooted in adolescent restlessness; a music which has failed in its mission if comprehended by the older generations.

Those days are long gone. The oldest people to have had a teenage experience of rock are now in their mid-50s, so rock is music enjoyed by at least three generations. There is a generic connection — although a qualitative difference — between Elvis Presley and Jason Donovan, whereas there wasn't between Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley.



Tina Turner at 50: effortlessly attracting the next generation of fans

Parents raised on the Beatles stand a good chance of understanding and appreciating De La Soul and Stone Roses. Kids raid their parents' record collections and wonder why they were not told earlier about Jimi Hendrix.

Grown-ups sniff out Top of the Pops because they know what a sin it is to be "out of touch".

But in the Fifties parents hoped their children would grow out of rock and roll and move on to Joe Loss and Mantovani. The parents of the Sixties were convinced that

by the time Mick Jagger was 30 he would have a sensible haircut.

Of course, rock helped make the rod with which it is now being beaten. When Mick Jagger said "I can't imagine prancing about on Top of the Pops when I'm 30" and then sang "What a drag it is getting old" in "Mother's Little Helper", he was helping to sustain the myth that rock was a young man's business, and that clinging on to life when the wrinkles set in would be a capitulation to the forces of greyness. The fact is, Jagger and



Mick Jagger: his generation found it is not such a drag growing old

his generation grew old and found that it was not such a drag.

What does have to be acknowledged is that the old songs lose their cultural resonance. "Satisfaction", as sung by a middle-aged multi-millionaire with four children in 1990, means something different from what it did in 1965. Back then it was possible that the 22-year-old Jagger was not getting enough "girl reaction", and was irritated by radio and television commercials.

Now we know he is just acting.

Likewise, Paul McCartney singing "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" with a mock psychedelic light show is more a Madame Tussaud's showpiece than a rallying call for stoned hippies. But the power of songs to evoke memories of past decades is not a weakness. It seems reasonable to me that McCartney has chosen to play a selection of his past hits rather than an experimental blend of Acid House and New Orleans jazz, that his audience is drawn from the forty-ish generation and that none of them are carted off in trance states.

It also seems reasonable that any generation reared on rock will want to stick with it. The tight leather pants worn at 17 would look ridiculous at 42, but why should a new CD be out of place?

Broadly speaking, the music created by older rock fans will contain more comfort than challenge, more familiarity than surprise. But then, with three kids, work pressures, a mortgage and early morning traffic, these people are looking to lower their blood pressure rather than raise their energy levels when they turn on the stereo. This is where the so-called "coffee table" rock of Dire Straits, Sting, Phil Collins and Chris Rea scores. This music has found its generation: a generation with money, car stereos and compact-disc players.

Rock is destined to get older still. They are not going to give up playing it and we are not going to give up listening to it. At one time marketing departments spoke of the 18-25 age group, then it expanded to become the 18-35s. Now it is 18-45 and growing. But this would only be worth lamenting if it crushed the abrasive music traditionally created by the young and hungry. As it is, Guns 'n' Roses can exist alongside Pink Floyd; Happy Mondays can play in the same world as Eric Clapton.

David Toop looks at the advance of compact discs and the threat to the industry

New waves in sea of sound

According to American comedienne Rita Rudner, the homeless people who shuffle around the streets of New York pushing shopping trolleys full of strange possessions are victims of the audio technology revolution. They committed themselves to Quad hi-fi systems in the Seventies and have never recovered from its demise.

"I just can't bring myself to buy a CD player until I have something in writing to say that's the last thing they are going to invent," says Rudner. There is a justifiable fear that, by the end of the century, those ubiquitous black stacking systems will have reached the ceiling and will require a step ladder as an operational accessory.

But even so, according to the 1989/90 year book of the British Phonographic Institute, many rack systems now exclude record turntables, in anticipation of the day when vinyl becomes obsolete. To compensate, there is the growing popularity of the compact disc player, and the looming threat of CD-R, CD-E and DAT.

CD-E is an erasable CD which can be used to record and re-record perfect copies of source

material; CD-R is a CD which can be used just once for this purpose; and DAT is a digital audio tape, which can also "clone" an original but has the potential disadvantage of deteriorating tape.

These acronyms may mean nothing to you, but to the music industry they are the equivalent of a scarlet cloth in a Spanish bullfight. Audio-tech guru Barry Fox could offer little on the subject, except to sow the seeds of fear. "It is a tricky subject," he said, "and if you're not careful, you'll get badly out of your depth."

"Anyone who comes into this area risks getting a lot of flack from BPI and International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers." The BPI is particularly sensitive. This week, for example, they took issue with the magazine *Which?* Lawyers have been consulted in connection with the frequent claims by *Which?* that the major record companies are "milking their customers" by overcharging for compact discs. The year book itself is in-

troduced with fighting talk. "In the past," the BPI claims, "the British record industry has perhaps been one of the softest targets for ill-informed criticism from a variety of quarters, notably the tabloid press."

"It is too often identified with the excesses of popular culture and this obscures the major contribution that the British record industry makes to the health of the economy as a whole and the total sum of enjoyment in everyday life." Yet without the excesses of popular culture, the British record industry would be a stunted plant indeed.

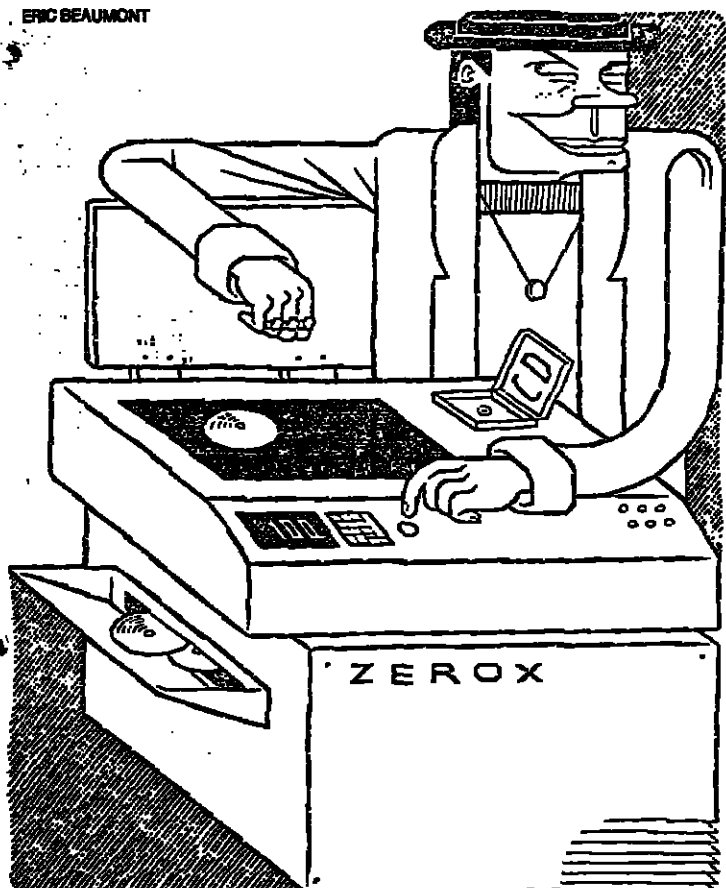
One example of lawless behaviour which enrages the BPI like no other is the vexed issue of home taping. There is no question that the home taping of recorded music causes a loss of revenue for record companies, but one problem for the BPI is to convince consumers that they are morally wrong to indulge in this practice.

The developments of CD-R, CD-E and DAT have all intensified the debate. All presage a

bleak future of illicit duplication on a grand scale, as far as the BPI is concerned.

A large proportion of the music-buying public is not convinced that it should consider the record industry with benevolence. After all, some buying of compact discs is solely to replace vinyl pressings of intolerably poor quality. In such cases the consumer pays twice while the artists and record companies receive a second helping of revenue.

The advent of compact discs has invigorated the record industry financially. Perhaps it briefly suggested a utopian dawn of passive consumption, listening to perfect reproductions of perfect music on perfect hardware. But popular music will always rely on an active approach to technology for its artistic growth. And technology will inevitably produce unwelcome effects to spoil its positive contributions. Record companies are surely foolish to believe that they can enjoy all the benefits and suffer none of the drawbacks.



ALBUMS

David Sinclair

Rodney Crowell: *Keys to the Highway* (CBS 466002 1)

So much of country music, whether new or old, conspires to give the impression that the person singing it is on the verge of falling into a deep sleep; something to do with those long, drawn-out syllables, and the lugubrious sound of the pedal steel keeping like warm treacle in the grooves of so many gently lilting rhythms.

Not so the work of the Texan singer-songwriter Rodney Crowell whose *Keys to the Highway* opens with a razor-sharp, up-tempo romp called "My Past is Present" which hits the senses like a splash of cold water in the face. The immediacy is maintained by "If Looks Could Kill", a swaggering honky-tonk with a bass line that strides out with a brisk, easy confidence, and "Tell Me the Truth", a superb slice of Fifties-style rockabilly swing which opens the second side.

Two other modern acts who have consistently mastered this kind of hot-wired "jump" country are Albert "Country Boy" Lee and Ricky Skaggs, both of whom share with Crowell the cachet of having worked their way up via the ranks of Emmylou Harris's incomparable Hot Band.

Crowell's own band, the Dixie Pearls, is an enviable neat and supple unit and boasts a golden asset in the gorgeously rich guitar tone of Stuart Smith, who performs with notable *elan* throughout; but glids the contemplative "Don't Let Your Feet Slow You Down" with some especially wondrous frills.

A more lachrymose mood sets in generally towards the end of the album with a trilling mandolin casting dappled shades across the ballad "Things I Wish I'd Said", and only one rather sickly lament, "You Been on My Mind", right at the finish, marginally queering an otherwise magnificent pitch.

The Christians: *Colour* (Island 842 268-2)

It becomes clear with each successive playing of this, the follow-up to their implausibly successful debut album, that despite a lingering frisson of credibility, the Christians have become one of those drab populist acts, firmly cast in the West West Way. Simply Red or Phil Collins mould. Much time and money was doubtless spent in the painstaking process of crafting this music to the precise specifications of a clearly defined mainstream pop market. The backing musicians, including Pino Palladino (bass) and drummers Steve Ferrone and Manu Katché are the best that money can buy (despite being awarded the most minuscule of sleeve credits).

The single "Words", and the lighthearted "Greenbank Drive" boast a discreet, innocuous charm, but for the most part the album lacks any discernible spark of life. Lumbered with a set of deeply conservative arrangements, Garry Christian applies a voice that is simultaneously recognizable yet characterless, to material that simply lacks the grit to offer the listener any meaningful purchase.



Dembo Korte and Kausu Kuyateh: joining forces to make a jolly roll

Dembo Korte, Kausu Kuyateh & the Jali Roll Orchestra: *Jali Roll* (Rogue FMSD 5020)

There is a decidedly bizarre quality to the fusions which ensue. On "Amadou Fall" the harp-like kora tones twinkle ethereally, while Kirkpatrick weaves a merry jig with his accordion. The Mustaphas' bassist and drummer nail down a relatively conventional funk beat, a horn section skates nimbly up and down the register while the high West African harmony singing snakes loosely in and out above the general mêlée. On "Lambango" a tongue-twisting barrage of African vocalese is underpinned by an

incongruously cool, walking swing bass line, and so forth.

Quite what these combinations achieve, beyond their novelty, is uncertain. There is little development of the songs, which seem to chase their tails for five or six minutes once the basic themes have been stated, although several grooves of great prettiness emerge. The Sundays: *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic* (Rough Trade ROUGH 148)

The Sundays is one of those insufferably hip groups that pop up from time to time, whose prime function seems to be to provide music journalists with a *raison d'être*. Convened in Bristol in 1988, by singer Harriet Wheeler and guitarist David Gavurin, they were featured on the cover of *Melody Maker* before they had even released a single, and then lionized everywhere else out of all proportion to anything they were likely to achieve.

Their cool, arty poise and predictably jangly guitar sound betrays a host of impeccable (independent) influences, most glaringly the Smiths (especially on "I Kicked A Boy") and the Cocteau Twins.

Harriet Wheeler's voice has a pellucid, occasionally piercing quality, from which all hint of emotion has been ruthlessly expunged. The songs are self-conscious, soulless artifices.

that ushered in the glory days of English folk-rock, some of the old magic still lingers. Support is Kieran Halpin, whose songs have been covered by Dolores Keane and the Battlefield Band, both favourites of this column. Half Moon, Putney, 93 Lower Richmond Rd, London SW15 (01-788 2387). Sunday and Monday, 8pm, £5.

TV SMITH'S CHEAP: Formerly a singer with punk loans the Adverts and then leader of the criminally overlooked Explorers, TV Smith has felt hard times. Still he keeps bouncing back with intelligent material. His latest band's debut single "Third Term" ("Buried by the Machine") is out now. Cricketers, Kennington Oval, London SE11 (01-735 3059). Monday, 8pm, £3.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION: Their annual Cropredy reunion concerts have gradually expanded into a year-round international touring itinerary, and while they are not a patch on the Richard Thompson/Sandy Denny group

church bells booming over a dance beat. They are now touring to promote the album, *Grossing 10K*. Fat Sams, Southward Rd, Dundee (0382 26836). Sunday, 10.30pm.

MARCIA GRIFFITHS: Appearing on the same bill as distinguished reggae veterans Dennis Brown and Freddie McGregor, Griffiths was a member of Bob Marley's vocal backing group, the I-Threes. She is currently having success in the US with a re-issue of her ground-breaking single "Electric Boogie". Academy, Brixton, London SW9 (01-328 1022). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £8.50.

LENNY KRAVITZ: Torrance Trent D'Arby and Andrew Roachford were among celebrities who turned out to Kravitz's barnstorming shows at London's Borderline last

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Toop and David Sinclair

BURNING FLAMES: With the current revival of ponchos and flares, sartorial bad taste is bidding a firm farewell to the style decade. Burning Flames is an Antiguan quartet which excels in the wearing of frightful clothes but its style expertise stitches together music from the Caribbean and West Africa. Stoke Newington Assembly Hall, London, N16 (01-388 5533). Tonight, 8pm, £7.

FINE TRIBE: The finest moment so far for Scotland's militant vegetarians has been "The Testimony", with its sampled

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SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Mourning and after

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

If death really is the last taboo in this country, then Nicky Cheek-ham's harrowing documentary on BBC 2 last night for *40 Minutes* may have gone some way towards opening up the debate that nobody really wants to have.

"A Place For Tom" centred on the pioneering efforts of the Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, to involve the parents and grandparents of dead children in some kind of therapy programme, which could overcome the mindless cruelty of friends and neighbours and even relatives saying "You'll be better after the funeral", or "After all, you've got another two kids".

Inevitably, any documentary of this nature lends itself to charges of voyeurism, and there were indeed moments when the close-ups of young bereaved mothers recalling the discovery of a cot death, or lingering shots of piles of unused toys, seemed to be intruding for much longer than necessary into private grief. There were also moments when the film lost its focus, to drift off in search of ritually duty spiritualists.

But the film raised some crucial questions, even if it did not always answer them. Is the Alder Centre the only place in the country where bereaved parents can expect some sort of psychiatric continuity of treatment? And, if so, is there any hope that counselling of this nature will spread to other hospitals and communities?

The idea of having parents long experienced in the grief of a dead child come together with those newly bereaved seems admirable, as does the decision to allow parents access to medical records and the precise details of their child's death, which are so often withheld by hospitals still believing in the virtues of secrecy.

If you lose a parent, as one of the mothers pointed out, you lose your past; if you lose a child, you lose your future, and it is in an attempt to reclaim that future that the Alder Hey is now working in partnership with the parents of dead children, to overcome in discussion groups and therapy sessions the isolation and heart-breaking despair that come of a tragedy which has for all too long and often been boxed away like the coffin itself.

And yet the real shock of "A Place For Tom" was the realization that so many parents have been made to feel so alone. "A death like this had not happened to anyone I knew, to any of my family or friends," said John Gossney. "I felt like a leper."

The Alder Hey policy is to make parents feel they are not in isolation, that they can talk about their lost children and indeed come together to mourn them. It is a movement which, like that of the Aids hospices, has now to be encouraged to spread nationwide.

Bill McAlister's long reign as emperor of the avant-garde is at an end. After an apparently undignified series of votes of "no confidence", and the appointment of an inquiry team to examine the management structure, the director and his deputy, Lisa Appignanesi, are to leave the Institute of Contemporary Arts next month.

The irony is that, in the 42 years since Roland Penrose and Herbert Read founded the ICA in the hot-house era of post-war surrealism, it has never been better organized. The place was in a state of crisis when Sorbonne-educated McAlister took over in 1977, having been artistic director of the Battersea Arts Centre. The ICA's

Arts correspondent Simon Tait on the background to the resignation of the ICA's director

Exit, left, the emperor of the avant-garde

then chairman, Cob Stenham, muttered unpromisingly, "I hope no-one will expect miracles from poor Mr McAlister."

But something of a miracle was wrought. McAlister acted as a kind of foreman who hired a team of experts and put them to work on their specialties: bold new directions were taken in dance, theatre, films, debates and installations, as well as painting and sculpture.

"All the previous directors had been producers. What Bill did was to organize a system of depart-

ment heads who were the producers, not him. Part of the problem was that before he came Penrose was very much around and making his influence felt," said one former colleague. There were even two different exhibition organizers, neither knowing much about what the other was doing.

The building itself, in The Mall, has been a further problem. The ICA has it on a generous lease, but it is an almost impossible shape for its purpose, and advertising out front is banned by the Crown

because it faces the principal road access to Buckingham Palace.

McAlister said the ICA must stay at the edge of controversy, and it has, not just through the mocking tabloid stories of the Seventies, but with politically dangerous projects such as the Palestinian film season - which miffed the leader of Westminster Council, Lady Porter. Westminster is a major funder of the ICA.

"It is quite wrong to say that I am going because of votes of no

confidence in myself," said McAlister. "There have been rows about matters of internal resources, but there has been no disagreement with the staff about policy."

Nevertheless, insiders say that McAlister has become increasingly remote and irascible as the financial problems have grown. Moreover, the absence of a new general manager - apparently "gapped" to save money for a while, in true bureaucratic style - has angered staff. He and

Appignanesi depart leaving a record deficit of £500,000, almost as much as next year's Arts Council grant - but at least the grant is to be increased by seven per cent, something of a vote of confidence.

The inquiry team - led by Brian Wenham, a former BBC executive, and including three former department heads in Sandy Nairne, Paul Collard and Erica Carter - will report next week to the ICA's board. They are looking at the management structure, but their report is unlikely to be over-critical of McAlister. If the ICA is still seen as a crucible for new art, and it is, their view is likely to be that McAlister is largely responsible.

John Russell Taylor welcomes the opportunity, in a new touring exhibition, to reassess the achievement of the painter Frans Hals

Triumph of the people's painter

Is Frans Hals a painter's painter, to be understood and appreciated only by a select group of his peers, or is he a people's painter, too popular and hackneyed to rate much serious consideration? Is he a comfortable Old Master, or is he a dangerous iconoclast in disguise? Is he one of painting's supreme technicians, or is he culpably careless and slipshod? These are the kind of sweeping alternatives that criticism offers us. What we have lacked, for many years now, is the comprehensive one-man show which would allow us confidently to decide for ourselves. Now the Royal Academy is breath-takingly filling that gap, with a show of nearly 70 paintings, ranging from his earliest known works to his latest. It has already been seen (in, naturally, a slightly different form) at the National Gallery in Washington, will be in London from tomorrow until April 8, and will then move on to the Frans Hals museum in Haarlem.

The first discovery the show offers is that everything they say about Hals is both true and not true. Undoubtedly he is a painter's painter: I happened to look round some of the show with three leading painters, and can testify to the ecstasy Hals's handling of his medium excited in them. But that does not mean that he is at all rarefied, for the cognoscenti alone. Fellow artists may see exactly how he does what he does, and be amazed at the brilliance with which he surmounts or just ignores many perennial problems. But anyone can respond to what he is doing, with no more than the basest notion of how he is doing it.

As a painter of people Hals has few equals, and the immediately astonishing thing about the show is how directly he puts us in touch with his human material, annihilating differences of time and place. His technique, whether we understand it or not, has a lot to do with that. He got the effects he did primarily by just putting on canvas, in the most direct possible way, what he saw.

When one considers that his was an age in which classicism was the predominate strain, and the observations of the eye were expected to be mediated by the formulations of the mind, it is amazing that he got away with what he did. Did not any of these solid burghers that he painted question his sketching in a facial feature, a hand or a detail of clothing with the fewest possible paint-strokes, so abstract-seeming

when examined in close detail that they match and outdo anything Manet could come up with in a similar line? Was not their puritan conscience appalled by the way he made it all look so quick and easy, when what they wanted was concrete evidence of man-hours spent, brush in hand?

It is in his human, and humane, perception that Hals can go straight to the heart of a non-specialist audience. Take, for instance, one of this show's great coups, the bringing together, after more than a century separated in different collections, of the pendant portraits of Stephanus Geraerds and his wife Isabella Coymans (c. 1650-2). These are unique in the painting of their time, and even in the work of Hals, so often the great exception, in that there is a clear interaction between them, a dramatic situation in which she offers him a rose as a token of love and he, in the other picture, responds by holding out his hand to receive it.

Each of the paintings is, on a purely human level, wonderfully warm and vivid, but put the two together and you get the most amazing reverberations, and an uncanny feeling that this is a tiny moment of time captured for all eternity: she is facing away from him, but her head turns towards him as though he has just said or done something to attract her attention, while they look at each other with half-smiles of such palpable warmth and affection that we for once are left in no doubt about the emotion behind the formalized gesture.

But everywhere you look there is this same emotional directness, this same truth to observed experience. Most often the people shown are in no way distinctive: just ordinary citizens of Haarlem, one supposes. Occasionally Hals goes in for the extreme and the grotesque, as in the "Malle Babbe", with her tankard of ale and the owl on her shoulder, or even the "Fisher Girl" with her wares on the beach.

But still, over and over, we have to wonder not only what contemporaries thought of Hals's style, but where on earth it came from. There is nothing in the work of his teachers or his Haarlem contemporaries to explain it, and he seems almost to have been born with it.

Though there is evident evolution all through his long career, we can already see the makings of his distinctive style very



Warm and vivid: "Isabella Coymans" by Frans Hals, on show at the Royal Academy

clearly in some of the earliest known works, such as the "Jacob Zaffius" of 1611: his handling will grow looser and more dazzlingly confident over the next 55 years, but his unmistakable touch is already there.

Surprisingly, for a painter who lets himself be so totally known in his work, Hals remains personally very mysterious.

There are no surviving drawings by him, and nothing that he painted before he was pushing 30. Whatever were his prentice works like? And how prolific was he?

The curator of the exhibition, Seymour Slive, estimates that the canon is not more than 250 works, from a career covering more than half a century. And this from a man who could evidently, if he wished,

dash off a finished painting in no more than a day. The reason for this apparently low yield is probably that Hals was already out of tune with his own time (a dangerous iconoclast indeed), and even more radically out of tune with the period which came immediately after.

Now, it would seem, was he the easiest person to deal with. The history of the major group portrait, "The Meagre Company" is quite well recorded in all its vicissitudes. It was commissioned by the City of Amsterdam, a few years before Rembrandt's "Night Watch", and it is some testimony of Hals's standing that such an important commission went to a painter from Haarlem.

However, he dragged his heels to such an extent that first the price was raised, presumably to encourage him, and then finally, when he had not completed it some three years later, it was taken out of his hands and given to Pieter Codde, a capable but much lesser painter, to finish. Meanwhile at one point Hals himself had urged the sitters from the Amsterdam Civil Guard to go and sit in Haarlem, as this would, he said, speed up the whole process remarkably.

As we have it, since recent cleaning, we can see for ourselves just where Hals stops and Codde starts. The elaborately decked figure on the extreme left, holding the standard, must be entirely by Hals, for instance, while the lace on the almost equally elaborate costume of the figure in the centre, with his back turned to us, could never be by Hals: fine but finicky, it is an object-lesson in what kind of art surrounded Hals, and what he, in his powerful and solitary fashion, reacted against.

Another of the great discoveries of the show is the range of small paintings, which he did throughout his life along with the more familiar big pieces. When Slive says of the late, small "Portrait of a Preacher" that all of Hals is there in miniature, and so is most of what painting has always been about, he is surely not far wide of the mark. But throughout, whether you move right away to take in the whole effect at a distance, or (much more excitingly) you move so close that details become richly sensuous abstractions, this is a show to affect both the mind and the heart, and to keep the eye busy until kingdom come. A wonderful way to inaugurate the Nineties!

Humour mingled with horror

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Faust

Coliseum

she glides in as an entirely convincing personification of youth.

She is a princess long before the Jewel Song: what she lacks in girlish vitality and sheer vocal radiance she makes up for in a grave graciousness of manner, which makes a most moving transition into distraction in the last scene.

Masterson's instinct for the Gallic turn of phrase is her greatest strength: the "King of Thule" song, here uninterrupted by any recitative, was a jewel as rare as any in Faust's casket. Her Jewel Song itself, more pearly than diamondine, a cunning piece of artistry.

The only other newcomer is Steven Page, whose Valentin is as yet vocally tense but as sinister as ever. Her Act Four aria, comforting the abandoned Marguerite, is eloquent with a grave beauty: her final attempt to reach her, when already fatally wounded by Faust, adds the final touch to a performance of minutely observed detail. Ian Judge has returned to direct this revival, and it makes its mark in no small part as a result of the set pieces and the oppressive crowd scenes.

The return of the soldiers, its parade of shattered victims savagely undercutting the victorious and vacuous march, still chills the audience; the scene in the confessional, with Faust directing the Dies Irae, still properly shocks; the all-white mad scene, worthy of Opera Factory's David Freeman at his best, leaves its indelible mark.

So too does the musical direction of Jacques Delacote. He has been at the helm ever since 1985, and he continues to direct the opera's cross-currents of humour and horror with perception and legendariness.

It's only frock and droll

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Gland Motel

Drill Hall Arts Centre

confidence: they attest to that crucial element of the drag sub-culture, the sovereign importance of the frock.

But in an entertainment the frock must rule as joint sovereign with wit, and here the Beatles troupe, recent winners of an OBIE award in New York, do well enough to get by capably. Some numbers are only so-so but the seemingly haphazard stage management, carefully contrived, you may be sure, is an engaging running joke, and any shortcomings could be forgiven a show where the closing number, "Keep Your Sunny Side Up", is sung by two fried eggs and a rasher of bacon - the latter, a generous slice of streaky, worn as a stole.

The plot is as thin as the chiffon so liberally used in the costume department. Bette and her four companions are camping out in a New York square when she steps backwards into a truck and is whisked off to the astral plane. Her troupe set off to bring her back to earth, aided by Madame Blavatski and interrupted by the need for occasional song and tap.

Bette Bourne herself has a deep, chestnutty voice and the steady gaze of one who knows precisely the absurdity of her material, relishes just that quality and defies you not to share her enjoyment. The loose format is also, and surprisingly, strong enough to bear "Just a Little Blue" sung unsentimentally to a dead lover by the whiteface artiste identified as Pearl. The show is further remarkable for its lack of snuff. A cheering evening.

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Frenchwoman's lesson in British choreography

Sylvie Guillem's debut as Cinderella on Wednesday was eagerly awaited not only for the excitement which all her appearances cause, but because this was the first time since joining the Royal Ballet that she had danced anything by a British choreographer (although she had success in the Paris Opera's Anthony Tudor programme).

No doubt there will be some chauvinist nit-picking about her performance, but it seems to me that, just as happened with the American Cynthia Harvey in *Symphonic Variations*, the star from overseas gave most of the English dancers a lesson in how to tackle Ashton's choreography.

What a pleasure it was to see all of the steps so clearly set forth. This is only partly a matter of a notably strong and classy technique, although without that she would not have been able to sustain so smoothly and articulately, and at so unhurried a pace, the long and varied sequence of turns circling the stage at the end of her big solo in Act Two. Every jewel on that long necklace of steps shone with unusual brightness.

More important, however, was the intelligent and individual phrasing of every sequence, even the most simple; the clarity of the little runs on point, the quick clean way she brings her feet up in *relevés* or *pas de chat*, the curve of her body and gently swaying arms in the final lift. Above all, every step told something about the character.

With her personality, Guillem could doubtless have held the attention of most spectators through the opening scene, just as

DANCE

John Percival

Cinderella

Covent Garden

Fonfeyra used, by simply gazing into the fire. However, she chose another way, besying herself all the time with polishing a jug, stirring a cauldron of soup, trying its flavour and offering her father a sip to taste. Hers is a very practical Cinderella, lively and observant, and kind-hearted too, even to her horrible sisters.

It was good to be distracted almost entirely from watching just how horrible Derek Rencher and Michael Coleman make those characters. Fussily they go on adding unnecessary new jokes, and get even less laughter. Guillem's parody of them, by contrast, showed real bubbling humour.

My heart sinks every time the curtain rises on David Walker's vulgarly ostentatious designs, but according to her custom Guillem insisted on modifying her costumes: slightly more ragged yet also more glamorous for the fireside scenes; shorter, lighter, springier skirts for her tutus.

Jonathan Cope partnered her ably and animatedly, but the only performance on Guillem's level was Erroll Pickford's jester, vividly blunt in humour, sharply classical but daring in his dancing. The orchestra, under Mark Ermler, was particularly squally and, strangely, intermittently fading.



Raggy yet glamorous: Sylvie Guillem in the title role of Cinderella

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Southern 'not worried' by 13% MAM stake

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mr William Courtney, chairman of Southern Water, said he was not concerned at the 13 per cent shareholding built up by funds invested by Mercury Asset Management, by far the biggest stake disclosed in a privatized water group.

Southern will, however, send out statutory notices to find out who its shareholders are once an up-to-date share register is received, probably at the end of January.

Yorkshire Water, in which MAM has an 8 per cent stake, said it did not know if other substantial stakes had been bought. But it would find out who its leading shareholders were and approach pension funds and insurance companies from February to try to build a relationship and create loyalty.

MAM is the 75 per cent

owned investment subsidiary of SG Warburg Group, whose securities business was broken to the Government for water privatization and played the leading role, through its market-making operations, in breaking up the packages of water shares initially sold to financial institutions.

Although MAM has acquired stakes in all 10 water groups on behalf of various clients, its buying has concentrated on those thought by some to be the targets of the three big French water groups. It has a 10 per cent combined holding in Wessex, where Compagnie Lyonnaise des Eaux bought 6 per cent, as well as 7 per cent of Anglian, where Lyonnaise owns 9 per cent.

It has also bought 10 per cent of Northumbrian, in whose region Lyonnaise has

large interests, but where the French group did not buy shares just after flotation. Mr David Cranston, finance director of Northumbrian, also said his company was relaxed about the MAM stake.

There was also speculation that Yorkshire and South West, where MAM has accumulated 10 per cent, were targets of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the biggest French water group. The third, Saur, bought control of three private water companies in the Southern area, in which Southern picked up blocking 25 per cent minority stakes.

Since then, however, Saur and Southern have come together in Stalwart Environmental Services, which has bid for local authority waste disposal contracts.

Four more of the privatized

water groups - Southern, Yorkshire, South West and Northumbrian - reported profits for the six months to end-September, before the capital re-organization and privatization, and all said they were on target to meet prospectus profit forecasts.

Southern recorded after-interest profits of £24.4 million, equivalent to £38.3 million, or 23.4p per share, after the capital reorganization. Extraordinary privatization costs were £3.4 million.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire made £17.4 million before extraordinary costs of £5.3 million.

South West made £17.8 million before extraordinary costs of only £1.5 million and Northumbrian recorded £3.8 million before privatization costs of £2.5 million.

Pact for hotel group is rejected

By Stephen Leather

Lady (Eileen) Joseph has suggested a compromise pact to resolve the struggle for control of Norfolk Capital, the hotel group in which she holds a crucial 7 per cent stake.

Balmoral, the recently-formed international hotels group based in Edinburgh, wants Norfolk's shareholders to elect three of its executives to the main board and to force the managing director, Mr Peter Eyles, to resign.

Lady Joseph, widow of Sir Max Joseph and followed by many of Norfolk's 20,000 small shareholders, has instead suggested that Balmoral's managing director, Mr Peter Eyles, join the board and work with Mr Eyles.

However, the suggestion, by Lady Joseph and Mr Tony Good, a director controlling about 3 per cent of Norfolk equity, has been vehemently rejected by both sides.

Mr Tyrie, who built up Gleneagles Hotels in Scotland and the Mandarin Oriental group in the Far East, said that Mr Eyles's resignation was necessary for the restructuring of Norfolk Capital.

Norfolk's chairman, Mr Tony Richmond-Watson, said that Mr Tyrie could become an active competitor, and that he and Mr Eyles considered Lady Joseph's idea as "totally impracticable".

Mr Tyrie wants shareholders to appoint himself and his colleagues, Mr Michael Williams and Mr Colin Wearmouth, to the board so that they can turn Norfolk into a five-star hotel group, without a full takeover bid, and sell its non-core public house and leisure interests.

Mr Tyrie said: "We have identified that there are a lot of assets in Norfolk which largely don't work for the shareholders."

Balmoral, with almost 13 per cent, is Norfolk's biggest shareholder. Norfolk shareholders will vote on Mr Tyrie's proposals at a meeting on January 29.

The Balmoral men are in London making presentations to institutions, who hold some 60 per cent of Norfolk's equity. They are also telephoning small shareholders.

Mr Richmond-Watson said: "The management of a listed company by another company is entirely inappropriate."

Balmoral hopes to persuade shareholders to pay a £500,000 annual fee, and performance-based payments of up to £7 million.

COMMENT

The lesson to be learned from Eurotunnel agony

It has been easy for those who hanker for a return of corporatism Britain to find a failure of private enterprise in the tribulations of Eurotunnel. The costs of the project have spiralled, progress has been slower than expected and there have even been suggestions that it may fail altogether. These depressing facts have a familiar ring to those who recall the fate of some recent large-scale publicly financed projects - the nuclear power station programme has contained some prime examples. Yet the highly public and acrimonious dispute over costs between Eurotunnel, which has the concession to operate the project, and Transmanche Link, the construction consortium building it, is evidence that the discipline of the market place, far from failing, is alive and working.

It is hardly surprising that the original estimates for the cost and duration of a pioneering infrastructure project, with no easy examples to copy, should have gone astray. The correctness of the decision to award the concession to privately funded interests will be measured against their response to these initial setbacks. Yesterday's agreements between Eurotunnel, its bankers and TML are encouraging on that score.

They show that the completion date of June 1993 is still intact, that the dispute between TML and Eurotunnel, barring some matters sent for arbitration, has been largely resolved and that the cost overruns, however unpleasant for shareholders, remain fundable within the normal commercial criteria of some hard-nosed bankers.

The accord between TML and Eurotunnel is complex. It does remove the cap on tunnelling costs which absorbed TML from a share of the pain above a 6 per cent over-run. But there is a sliding scale which appears to benefit TML if tunnelling costs emerge at the lower end of the range. Over all, the new arrangement provides incentive for TML to keep costs down and penalizes it if they escalate.

The lump sum works, such as terminals and railways, are still subject to arbitration.

There are, though, some lessons for the future. Much of the recent agony generated by the row over Eurotunnel costs could have been avoided or minimized at an earlier stage in the proceedings by a swifter separation of the roles of promoter and constructor. The builders planned and managed the early stages of the scheme and had a large say in the contract. At that time, Eurotunnel was still controlled by the companies which now form TML. There is inevitably a conflict of interest between an operator like Eurotunnel and the constructors of a project which should be recognized long before costs and contracts are prepared. It may be an exaggeration to say that TML agreed the contract with itself, but not much of one.

Closer attention to the details of planning, design and management before work was seriously under way by those with Eurotunnel shareholders' interests solely in mind could have avoided most of Eurotunnel's recent difficulties. If that lesson is well taken, future ventures will find risk capital easier to arrange.

Warning signs for Major

The sharp rise in receiverships is as graphic evidence as any that the credit squeeze is working, and of exactly how it is working. Receiverships accelerated sharply in the fourth quarter, rising more than 70 per cent against the comparable quarter of 1988 compared with a 38 per cent rise over the year as a whole. The figure for London and the South-east, which accounted for more than half the total receiverships, was up 94 per cent in the last quarter against 52 per cent for the year. By contrast, there were actually fewer receiverships in the year in Scotland and the South-west and the total was little changed in the North-west.

If this is a big, painful shakeout, it is at least a healthy one. Leaner, fitter manufacturers have fared relatively well, while service industries in the overcooked South-east, notably property and retailers of carpets, furniture and the like, have suffered most.

Tim Hayward, of Peat Marwick McLintock, who produced the comprehensive survey, says things are still getting worse, but are nowhere near as bad as in the mid-Eighties and largely affect smaller firms from an abundant new crop.

The message is clear. Little irreparable damage has so far been done by the squeeze, which looks a reasonable cost for cutting inflation. But the warning signs are there that the Chancellor should not squeeze a moment longer than necessary.

'Squeeze on inflation postponed'

The squeeze on companies necessary to reduce inflation has been postponed, probably until after the next election, and the permitted fall in sterling has undermined government policy against inflation, says Mr Donald Franklin, chief economist of Schroders.

In the bank's latest *Economic Perspective*, he writes that the pound could prove vulnerable this year, if interest rates are lowered.

James Capel, the broker, says in its January economic assessment that the 6 per cent fall in sterling's effective exchange rate since Mr Nigel Lawson's resignation could hardly have come at a worse time for inflation.

Norex link

Norex has become part of a European network of insurance brokers placing risks for multinational companies. Its Lloyd's broking arm has joined a consortium of French, Italian and Dutch groups.

BP steel order

BP has ordered 30,000 tonnes of steel plate worth £15 million from British Steel to build gasfield sea platforms.

In the black

Multitone Electronics has turned a loss of £290,000 into a pre-tax profit of £73,000. Sales rose to £10.1 million.

NatWest eyes EC targets

By Neil Bennett



On the look-out: Lord Alexander, chairman of NatWest

Lord Alexander of Weeden, chairman of National Westminster Bank, says the bank is looking for acquisitions or joint ventures in Europe in preparation for 1992.

In his first public appearance since taking over last October, he announced in a speech in Brussels that the bank wanted to expand its operations in the EC. It is looking at alliances and marketing agreements as well as outright acquisitions. He stressed, however, that the search was at an early stage and refused to reveal any possible targets.

Mr John Tagwell, the bank's international business chief executive, said the NatWest was more interested in taking stakes in broad-based financial service companies than acquiring a retail bank.

Lord Alexander was in Brussels on a two-day visit to talk to Sir Leon Brittan, the competition and financial services commissioner, and other commission officials about Europe's banking industry.

NatWest already has one of the most advanced European networks of any British bank, employing more than 1,000 people in 10 of the 12 EC member states.

The chairman also said he supported Britain's entry into the EC's exchange rate mechanism, and that the question should be resolved sooner rather than later.

But he called for a reduction in interest rates to bring them into line with Europe before this could be achieved.

Daily Mail Trust reports £113.3m

By Colin Campbell

Costs of moving from Fleet Street to new editorial and printing premises, coupled with other reorganizations, cost The Daily Mail and General Trust a gross £75.4 million in the year ended September 30.

Daily Mail and General Trust, owner of two national newspapers and other local papers and now remodelled as a company following its earlier acquisition of Associated Newspapers Holdings, shows pre-tax profits of £113.3 million for the year ended September on a turnover of £592.4 million. A final dividend of 75p will be paid, making 100p. Comparative figures are meaningless.

Comparative figures are, however, given for Associated Newspapers Holdings group and show a trading profit of £63.4 million (£60.2 million) from continuing activities' turnover of £613.1 million (£543.5 million).

The Daily Mail and General Trust's trading profit of £56.9

million was made up of profits of £60.4 million from newspapers and magazines less a debit of £3.5 million from other activities.

Exceptional items totalled £60.3 million - made up of a £181.9 million profit on the sale of investments but offset by reorganization and redundancy costs of £75.4 million, a £29.7 million write-down on investments, and a £16.5 million debit covering special pension contributions.

The year's total dividend of

100p compares with a previous total payment of 75p a share.

The group added that circulation of the Daily Mail was "slightly down" year on year but was holding up well, while circulation of the Mail on Sunday remained in an upward trend.

Control of the Daily Mail and General Trust lies with the Harmsworth family, holding 72 per cent of the votes. The non-voting shares rose by £1 to £61 each.

Stingy Rowe row bubbles on

City gents have been grumbling into their champagne glasses after learning that Rowe & Pitman had quibbled with the all-too-modest request for a case of champagne from Martin Ritchie, the young chartered surveyor who found - and returned - bonds to the value of £4 million. Indeed, Simon Hughes, the Member of Parliament for Bournemouth, yesterday tabled an early day motion to "commend" his honesty and to "urge" Rowe & Pitman to give him "a reward slightly more appropriate to the amount of money he saved them." He suggested a figure of £2,500, to cover Ritchie's overdraft, while a leading loss adjuster suggested that 10 per cent of the amount recovered was the norm. Rowe & Pitman sent Ritchie, who works for Baker, Hatris, Saunders, in Gutter Lane, a mere mugshot of Laurent Perrier. But now, by way of a gesture, and in order to uphold the Square Mile's reputation for fostering an old-fashioned sense of style, a rival securities house - rumoured to be County NatWest WoodMac - has dispatched to his office the other 10 bottles of champagne necessary to at least fulfil Ritchie's original request for a case.

Life must be getting tough in the City. A pin-striped gent at a Tube station in the Square Mile was overheard asking the ticket office clerk: "Is there such a thing as a cheap single?"

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Global job for Lyon

Peter Lyon, a director at County NatWest WoodMac, responsible for asset allocation at County NatWest Investment Management for the past five years, has resigned and will be joining Smith New Court - as its global strategist - at the beginning of March. Lyon, aged 49, and also once head of research at Vickers, before it merged with Scrimgeour, is described as a "very important appointment" by Mike Unsworth, head of research at SNC. "We appointed Paul Walton, from Warburgs, as our UK strategist and Peter completes the picture. He will

pull together all our strategic thoughts and liaise with Roger Nightingale, our chief international economist. Outside the US, we now research and trade in every major market in the world - and most of the minor ones as well." Meanwhile SNC has also just started its own smaller companies unit - by recruiting analysts Mary Fleming and Alastair Irving, and specialist salesman Owen Smythe, all from ANZ-McCannan. They started on Monday. "Although we have a lot of corporate clients in this area, it is a new area for us," says Unsworth.

Double trouble

Tired and emotional financial hacks covering the YJ Lovell



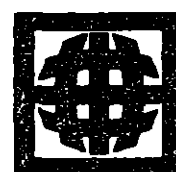
Settled over a drink

The saga of Daniel Jeffreys' dinner suit looks like reaching a happier conclusion than that of his £5,000 car parking bill. Following the revelation in the City Diary about the £400 hire fees outstanding on the white-tie suit - since it was hired in October and has yet to be returned - Jeffreys, in his first week as Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers' UK equity strategist, tells me that he has since spoken to Sidney Lipman, who owns the hire shop. "He told me that because I was such a nice man, if I brought a bottle of champagne, and drank it with him, he was sure that we would be able to reach an amicable agreement," Jeffreys says. "I suggested vintage Bollinger but he insisted that it had to be Dom Perignon (£68 a bottle)." Jeffreys claims that the situation over the dinner suit arose because "my ex-girlfriend promised to take it back to the hire and then failed to do so." However, his private life seems to be in a little bit of a tangle at the moment. For the said girlfriend tells me that she was in fact Jeffreys' fiancée until just 10 days ago.

An interesting snippet of information: James Capel, referred to in passing in yesterday's City Diary story about Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers as leading the field with 6 per cent of the UK equity business, tells me that that figure is now somewhat out of date. "We now have 9 per cent," a spokesman tells me happily.

Carol Leonard

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



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December 1989

Portfolio

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1988/89	Price	Grain	Yld
High Low Company	Std	Other	Chg per p % - P

OILS, GAS

31	Standard	50	50	0	0	77	77	NA	NA
32	Standard	50	50	0	0	77	77	NA	NA
33	Standard	50	50	0	0	77	77	NA	NA
34	Standard	50	50	0	0	77	77	NA	NA
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36	Standard	50	50	0	0	77	77	NA	NA
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TOBACCO									
447	B&W	632	632	0-4	46.0	4.8	10.8		
448	100 Camel	570	570	0-5					
424	100 Red (na)	589	589		16.4	2.4	62.8		

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MOTORING

Japan struts its stuff

Talk at America's top motor show was of the lead another country has taken in innovative design and, now, sales. Daniel Ward, in Detroit, finds out why



Is length synonymous with luxury? The Lincoln has the status, but not all the top features

All flash, no finesse

For the price of a Rover Sterling in America you could own the latest Lincoln Town Car, an old-fashioned big brother to the impressive Lincoln Continental. The Town Car is proof that rich Americans will always need a huge car to let everyone know they are rich. A Japanese model simply will not do. Americans love Hondas but size means status, so the 1987 3in Lincoln has an obvious appeal. This gas guzzler is longer than its predecessor.

It may have neat curves where once there were fins and acres of chrome, but the Town Car is dated under that new skin. As one of the last cars to boast a separate chassis, it also has such wilfully luxury car features as rear drum brakes and a crude rear axle. It is one car the Japanese would not attempt to copy.

There is a presidential air to this limousine as it waffles gently along at a steady speed. The V8 engine is capable of

The Lincoln is a long stretch from a European luxury car, but they love it in the States

drawing close to two tons of mass away from traffic lights. It has no more power, however, than a European 2 litre. From the driver's seat of a Rolls-Royce there is an impressive lofty view of the world, but the Lincoln owner has to make do with slumping low on an uncomfortable leather-look plastic seat. All that are missing are the star spangled Lincoln.

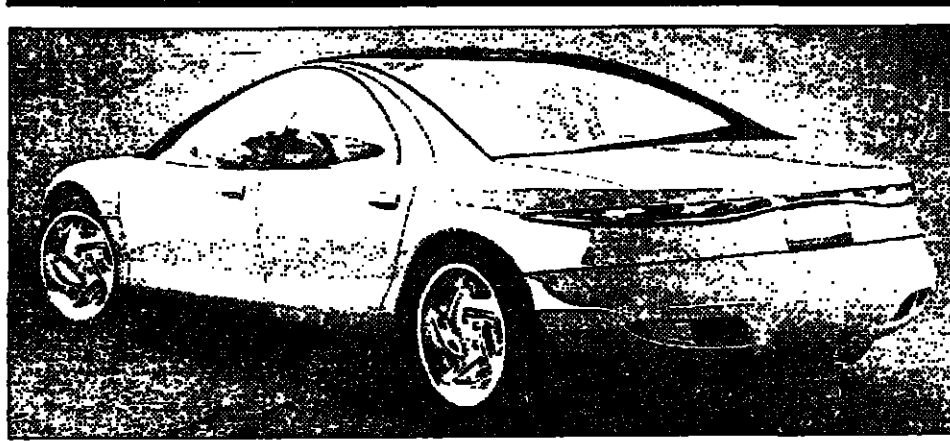
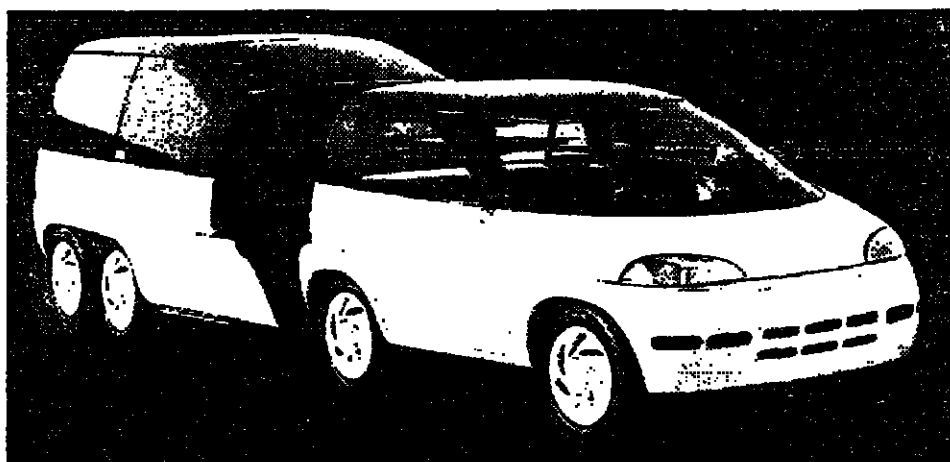
Driving the Lincoln briskly is like the nightmare of feather-light steering and spongy suspension that might be expected. Agile it certainly is not, yet the Town Car floats along quite happily without being in danger of tipping

stars in the back seat on to the carpet. There have been improvements but everything is relative.

The American penchant for "stretched" limousines is due, in part, to the disappointing lack of room in the back of Detroit's large cars. The Town Car is wide enough to take six. You could not claim that the Lincoln was expensive, but if the makers did save any money, it must have been on the interior, which is hard to recognize as different from the brash, glitzy offerings of the 1960s. The driver is presented with an acre of chrome switches and levers, all housed in cheap "wood effect" metal.

To underline the chasm between European and Japanese luxury cars and those from Detroit, an American car magazine has just voted the Lincoln Town Car, car of the year. America is a long way from ending its love affair with big, flash cars.

Daniel Ward



Future concepts: Voyager III (top) and the Ford Mercury Cyclone give a taste of things to come

gas guzzlers at a time when the CAFE minimum is about to be significantly increased. Baseball fans would call that a home run for the Japanese.

Against this background, the launch of the new Ford Escort was a significant event, as it gave the company an up-to-date economical model to offset some of the big V8 powered cars. The Escort is now much longer and wider than its European sister model. However, the most

significant point is that the new car was largely designed by Mazda. The Japanese firm also set up one of the two plants that will make the Escort, for many years a best seller in America.

When a Chrysler executive introduced a stunning new sports car at the show, he added honestly that he was sorry his firm had not produced it. It came from Mitsubishi — only the badges were changed. The Japanese

will never bother to compete with Detroit in the traditional large car sector. General Motors introduced the new Chevrolet Caprice, with enough seats for six. The distance from the rear wheels to the bumper is a match for a double-decker bus. The survival of the car-like live axle in the 1990s is remarkable.

Chuck Jordan, Cadillac's chief designer, says there are less customers for the GM division, so the Aurora con-

cept car was aimed at a younger buyer. It is planned for production in the mid-1990s, but it is very hard to see how today's Cadillac owners would swap their chrome and acres of sheet metal for something so understated and compact.

The Detroit show's best concept car was wholly impractical, yet represents an innovative approach to coping with crowded roads. Chrysler's Voyager III is two vehicles in one. The front half is a three-seater micro-computer car powered by a propane 1.6 litre engine.

Behind the small car is the rear module, which cannot be operated separately but can be locked on to the front. When it docks, the rear wheels of the micro car are electrically withdrawn like an aircraft pulling up its undercarriage. In total, there are eight seats. The rear section has its own engine which is electronically linked to the front unit.

The Voyager highlights a way in which one-car families can have a compact shopping car for city use and then a full-size car for holidays and outings.

Nissan's small pickup, the Gobi, was styled in America by the Japanese firm's US designers. So why can't American stylists produce better cars? The Nissan Gobi was fun and fresh with an unusual elliptical cab. Alongside the Gobi, many of Detroit's ideas seemed dated before the public had even seen them.

The exception was Ford's handsome Mercury Cyclone. Perhaps heavily influenced by Ford's Italian Ghia studio, it was, nevertheless, a clever and exciting four-seater rather than brash like the Pontiac counterpart.

The Cyclone's glass roof has an electrochromic layer which can be changed from transparent to opaque by adjusting an electrical current. Such a development could make the glass roof practical.

Lotus and Aston Martin launched the new Elan and Virage respectively for the American market and Rover unveiled its Oxford Edition Sterling.

'The Nissan Gobi was fun and fresh. Alongside it, many of Detroit's ideas seemed dated before the public had even seen them'

THE LATEST FROM THE LAND OF STARS AND STRIPES

■ The need to depress the clutch before turning the ignition key is now a feature of many American cars with manual gearboxes. Similarly, automatic cars will only start when the brake pedal is pressed by the driver.

■ Central locking on American cars no longer operates by remote doors, following many attacks on lone drivers. An assailant could crouch out of sight on the far side of car and

slip into the rear seat when the doors were unlocked.

■ Some Detroit petrol stations have acted against motorists who drive off without paying, by demanding the money first.

■ Air bags are fitted on many new American cars in preference to the cheaper, but increasingly outlawed motorized seat belts which automatically "flap" the diagonal part of the belt around the front seat occupant when the door has

been closed. One of the two systems is now mandatory in America. Ford and Chrysler are to fit air bags progressively to all models.

■ American car manufacturers estimate it would cost \$7.5 billion (about £3.6 billion) a year to comply with the Clean Air Act currently being discussed by the United States Congress, yet it is claimed the measures will improve air quality by less than 2 per cent.

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MERCEDES-BENZ

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3468, 3469, 34

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 88.0 (day's range 87.9-88.0).

	Range	Clos	1 month	3 month	
New York	1.6531-1.6575	1.6565-1.6575	0.99-0.94	2.74-2.70	Australia dollar 2.0895-2.093
					Bahrain dinar 0.8195-0.827
					Brazil cruzeiro 20.200-20.200

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Malaysia	2.6995-2.7005	Switzerland	1.5190-1.5200	Hong Kong	7.8090-7.8100
Australia	1.2618-1.2634	Netherlands	1.9010-1.9020	Portugal	148.50-149.00
Canada	1.1571-1.1581	France	5.7320-5.7320		

MONEY MARKETS

Overnight High: 14% Low 12 Week fixed: 14%	Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Dollar:	8%-7%	8 ¹ / ₂ -8 ¹ / ₂ %	8 ¹ / ₂ -8 ¹ / ₂ %	8 ¹ / ₂ -8 ¹ / ₂ %
Fixed Rate	Can. \$ U.S. 7%				

2 mth: 14¹/₂-14% 3 mth: 14¹/₂-14% 6 mth: 13¹/₂-%
 French Franc: 10%-10% 11%-11 11%-11% 11¹/₂-%
 Call: 11-10
 Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 15%
 2 mth: 15¹/₂% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 14¹/₂%
 Swiss Franc: 10-9% 9¹/₂-11% 9¹/₂-11% 9¹/₂-%

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ECGD
Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec

Spot Silver: \$5.32-5.34 (\$3.210-3.225)

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
T-SE 100					
Previous open interest 27728					

1980	85.21	85.21	85.07	85.12	33628	US Treasury Bond	85.17	85
1980	86.00	86.01	85.86	85.90	17279	Jun 90	97-17	0
						Long City		
							Previous open interest 3445	

Free Month Euro DM	92.04	92.04	1178
Previous open interest	26369		
German Govt Bond	99.62	99.62	767
Previous open interest	88.82		217

COMMODITIES

trade	Mar 642-641	Dec 701-700	Unit price/volume previous day	Rudolf Wolff
	May 654-653	Mar 717-716	(\$/tonne)	
			Cash	3 months

Jan 605-604	Sep 673-671	Zinc H Gds*	428.50-429.00	76500	Steady
0-87.00	Nov 695-692	Zinc Spg H*	1320.0-1330.0	19125	Brly Stdy
Mar 629-628			1280.0-1290.0		

3 SLR	JOB	Cashflow	Nickel*	7690-7700	1588.0-1588.0	259375	Steady
-63.50	FEB	Vot 3974			7475-7490	12714	Firm
Mar 320.5-20.2	OIL	311.8-11.8	† (Cents per Troy oz). * (\$ per barrel)				

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 344
Live Pig Contract

[illegible]

97.3	Apr 136.0-38.5	Dec 135.0-39.0	new	117.0	117.0	Scotland (+)	n/a	-78.1	-18.7
of 254	Jun 135.0-36.0	Feb 139.0-43.0	Apr	118.8	118.8	Scotland (pi)	n/a	180.10	110.90
	Aug 135.0-36.0	Vol 0	Vol			Scotland (+/-)	n/a	17.00	
			Vol Pin 71 Game 1						

[illegible]

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Greater London Enterprise seeks private sector aid

By Martin Regan

Greater London Enterprise, an important source of venture capital for small businesses, is to invite private sector companies on to its board in an effort to dilute local authority control.

The move is the latest evidence of the restructuring by enterprise boards in an attempt to sidestep the proposed Housing and Local Authority Act. Under this, the boards - independent commercially-run companies created by local authorities to promote small business growth - will be treated as local authority-controlled and subject to stringent borrowing requirements.

The Greater London board has so far helped finance about 30 companies, including Palace Pictures, makers of *Mona Lisa* and *Scandal*. The plan to invite new members follows the failure of talks with the Co-operative Bank and Unity Trust, the trade union bank. Mr Richard Minns, joint chief executive, said: "We are being very cautious in our choice of new members and will be looking for like-minded organizations."

New directors will also be appointed to push local authority representation to less than 20 percent, the benchmark below which the new classification will not apply. The move follows the decision by Lancashire Enterprises, the country's largest and

most profitable board, to sell off 80 per cent of its shares.

Lancashire Enterprises pioneered the use of seed capital funds for high-risk, technology-led companies, helping a number to the Third Market. Last year, it recorded £800,000 pre-tax profits.

Greater Manchester Economic Development is examining the Lancashire scheme, but is likely to follow the Greater London route. The only casualty so far has been the Merseyside Enterprise Board which collapsed after the county's five boroughs failed to agree on a restructuring plan.

MR FRIDAY



I'll make the same resolution I made in 1980 - to take a holiday this decade

Right formula for health

By Brian Collett

A traditionally trained pharmacist with the right formula for a health shop may sound unusual, but Miss Rekha Kotecha takes a far from conventional line on almost everything. And she usually succeeds.

Miss Kotecha, a Ugandan Asian expelled by Idi Amin, the dictator, in 1972, began job-hunting the day after arriving in Britain. The daughter of an industrialist family in the textiles business, she was used to hard work. However, instead of taking a job, she got her "A" levels and then a pharmacy degree.

Yet working as a chemist's pharmacist and later in a City partnership was not enough. She said: "I didn't want to work for anyone else any more." Thus she decided to use her skills for a health food business.

Miss Kotecha requested an interview with the manager at her local Barclays Bank branch. He was too busy that day, so she told the bank to prepare her assets for withdrawal by 2.30pm. An interview was swiftly arranged with another branch manager, who granted the loan at acceptable rates, with her flat as security.

Miss Kotecha was able to open her first shop in Old Brompton Road, west London, in March 1987.

Typical of her unconventional style, Miss Kotecha believes certain constituents of diet are essential to avoid and fight illness and as a pharmacist she has the biochemical knowledge to advise sensibly, not just sell products. For



Stocked for success: Rekha Kotecha at her Earls Court Road store, where she offers advice on health

example, she tells her customers to take vitamin E and iron six hours apart, because the vitamin inhibits iron absorption. She treats all her customers as individuals, asking why they want health supplements, often suggesting more suitable ones, and checking whether they are on medication to avoid drug interaction. She even stocks products available only to doctors, nutritionists and pharmacists.

People had predicted she would fail in Old Brompton Road because the shop was in a bad location, but business passed break-even point on the first day. After 12 months, takings reached the level Miss Kotecha had expected after five years.

She lives on four hours' sleep a night and occasionally none at all, using the waking hours to read up her subject. It is no surprise, therefore, that while preparing her second shop in Earls Court Road, she spent four days with only a few hour-long breaks.

Miss Kotecha has started selling by mail order in Britain and Europe, which she says helps to maintain continuity in supplying the right foods and supplements to customers. Mail order makes up 20 per cent of her trade.

As for her success, Miss Kotecha said: "I offer a service. I stay open late, seven days a week. My Earls Court store is the only health shop I know in London open until

10pm. It's not for the money. Somebody might want a plaster when everywhere else is shut. As a result, my customers know me and call me by my first name."

Even the name for her shops came about in an unorthodox way. She recalls: "When I was starting, I told myself I must be crazy. Then I realized I had the name - Health Craze."

Miss Kotecha is now planning a naturopathy centre at the Earls Court shop, a central London store, a pure plant beauty centre and her own health products.

Her philosophy: "There is never yesterday for me, only tomorrow, and tomorrow has got to be better."

PR service finds a market in Moscow

By Derek Harris

Holder Swan Public Relations, a London agency headed by Miss Sylvia Holder and Miss Lindsay Swan, started seminars last September to tell small businesses how to run their own public relations, given that professional help could be too expensive.

The service, thought to be the only one of its kind, has proved so popular that the seminars are being held more frequently - and have been requested in Brussels and Moscow. The pair are also looking to courses in the British regions and as far afield as Hong Kong.

The seminars cost £150 for a day, plus VAT. So far half the people attending have been from London, with most of the rest from the regions and a sprinkling from abroad.

The seminar programme covers the essential ground - understanding the media, coping with interviews, planning a campaign, writing a media release - with a look at non-media sides of public relations such as brochures, exhibitions, mail shots and crisis management.

Since Holder Swan was launched in 1976, the firm has built a sound record in public relations. Details: Holder Swan, 70 Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 8AN; telephone (01) 267 6022.

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URGENT REQUIREMENT

Public Company wishes to purchase

PROPERTY INVESTMENT COMPANY

(Private or Public

Qadir is sent into Test exile as two old friends fall out

From John Woodcock, Melbourne

vies, who as J. H. Davies, rode Robin Wonder to victory in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham seven years ago. Davies, who has worked for David Elsworth and David Nicholson, says: "Mick's the best gun I've had. He's ambitious, but he's realistic. And he doesn't mind getting stuck in."

Channon's first runner will probably be the hurdler, Rowlandsons Trophy, who at present is with Cunningham-Brown. Channon said: "I'm sorry to leave Ken but you've got to get on, and I'm lucky that some of the owners are coming with me. I'm not expecting miracles but if you stick in there and you've got a good staff, you'll survive."

Graveney stays at Gloucester

Yes, the only Indian left-
hander of any distinction has
been Wadekar, and the only
Pakistanis in their first 20 are
Wasim Raja and Sadiq Moham-
madd, both well down the list. If
it were golf the answer could be
a scarcity of left-handed players.
But in cricket, bats are right-
handed bats, so it can't be that.
Can it just be coincidence?

AFRICA (from: A R Border (captain),
G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M
Lambert, S R Waugh, G R Burrowes,
M G Hughes, C G Rackemann, C
Campbell, T M Alderman)

PAKISTAN (from: Imran Khan (captain),
Ijaz Ahmed, Ghauri, Aftab Ghilzai,
Mohammad, Mansoor Akhtar, Asif Ali-
khan, Saad Arif, Saleem Yousuf,
Younis, Nadeem Ghauri, Asif Javed)

Adelaide (Reuters) — The all-rounder, **Brendon Julian**, aged 19, took four wickets for 14 runs as Sri Lanka crashed to 103 all out on the first day of their two-day match against the Australian Cricket Academy yesterday.

Julian, the captain, put the visitors in to bat, and made the most of the sticky conditions.

Moving his left-arm medium

With Chris Mack also taking three wickets, the Sri Lankans were reduced to 61 for eight soon after lunch and an unbeaten 35 by the tailender, Kanjib Madurasinghe, helped them to three figures.

At the close of play, the visitors were on 162 for four with the Victorian, Craig White, unbeaten on 43 and Cameron Williamson of South Australia

At the other end of the conference table, Darlington have bought Phil Lincare, the Newcastle Blue Star forward, for an undisclosed five-figure fee and Barnet are hoping to sign Paul Harding, the Exeter forward. Barnet are believed to have offered about £25,000, but the Exeter are understood to be looking for much more. The Exeter are also looking for a forward for David Howell, the Barnet and England semi-professional captain, has fallen through for similar reasons.

	Standings				L	F	A	Pts
	P	W	D	L				
Slough	3	3	0	0	0	12	0	12
Reading	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	9
Wokingham	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
Leicester	3	1	2	0	0	2	2	6
Highway	3	1	1	1	1	6	5	6
Chelmsford	3	1	1	1	1	5	7	6
Gt Harwood	3	0	2	1	1	1	2	3
Orpington	3	0	1	2	1	2	1	3
Ennalsbury	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	3
Cilton	3	0	1	2	0	5	6	1

● Jill Atkins has been appointed hockey development officer for West Yorkshire.

The show, which has already sold 3,000 tickets, is open daily from 10am till 6pm.

● Lemicus, who is still recovering from the broken pelvis he sustained in a fall last summer, is using the British Horse Rider Show to launch the British Cross-Country Centre due to be completed in May. The centre, on a 70-acre site at Burnham in Buckinghamshire, will consist of 150 cross-country fences, a 3,000 square metre lake, a six-furrow all-weather gallop and two steeplechase gallops. Any rider can hire the facilities for £100, with no recent dressage or eventing experience required.

● The W. Schilling Ground in Wiltshire, will be the only training centre of its kind in Britain.

	Standings				L	F	A	Pts
	P	W	D	L				
Slough	3	3	0	0	0	12	0	12
Reading	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	9
Wokingham	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
Leicester	3	1	2	0	0	2	2	6
Highway	3	1	1	1	1	6	5	6
Chelmsford	3	1	1	1	1	5	7	6
Gt Harwood	3	0	2	1	1	1	2	3
Orpington	3	0	1	2	1	2	1	3
Ennalsbury	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	3
Cilton	3	0	1	2	0	5	6	1

● Jill Atkins has been appointed hockey development officer for West Yorkshire.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 8-10pm and 8:30pm-midnight: National Football League: AFC play-offs.

BASKETBALL: Eurosport 3-6pm: Highlights from the European club circuit: Screensport 3:15-5pm: College match: Clemson v NC State.

BILLIARDS: Eurosport 11.15pm-12.15am: Three-Cushion World Cup: Highlights from Berlin, West Germany.

BOWLING: Screensport 11.45pm-1.15pm and midnight: Professional and Top Rank events from the United States.

DARTS: 11.20pm-12.20am: Coverage of

BASKETBALL: Eurosport 3-6pm: Highlights from the European club circuit; Screensport 3.15-5pm: College match: Clemson v NC State.

BILLIARDS: Eurosport 11.15pm-12.15am: Three-Cushion World Cup: Highlights from Berlin, West Germany.

BOXING: Screensport 11.45am-1.15pm and midnight: Professional and Top Rank events from the United States.

DARTS: 11.20pm-12.20am: Coverage of

[illegible]

Shires (4th), P. Williams Lodge, 10 Newbury
St., Weymouth, £175.
Clyde (4th), P. Barrington's Park,
Suffolk, Vets., £160.
Two Bred, 90 Hobbs Son, 18-16 Jakes
Road, Weymouth, £150.
Wentworth, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24 C. Jones,
at Upper Lymington, Totnes, £150.
£300, 21, 22, 40; £450, 30; £150, 25, 30;
£150, 25, 30, 35.
Phone: 2574, 55.

Placopie: 254, 55.

● The Jockey Club's report on
the abandonment of Doncaster's
St Leger meeting will be
discussed at its weekly meeting
on Monday and a statement
made in the week.

● A planning application for
Newbury's stand is to be
submitted shortly. The stand
will have a capacity of 9,000.

● Peter Hobbs had to give up
his two booked rides
on Wednesday afternoon after
spraining a knee at Plumpton on
Wednesday.

- The Jockey Club's report on the abandonment of Doncaster's St Leger meeting will be discussed at its weekly meeting on Monday and a statement made later in the week.
- A planning application for Newbury's new stand is to be submitted shortly. The stand will have a capacity of 10,000.
- Peter Hobbs had to give up his two booked rides at Wincanton yesterday after injuring a knee at Plumpton on Wednesday.

FOOTBALL

Arsenal are spared by the FA from further punishment

By Dennis Signy and Peter Ball

Arsenal, who took their own disciplinary action against players who protested to match officials at Villa Park after their 2-1 defeat against Aston Villa on December 30, have escaped further censure by the FA.

The club was asked to comment on the report of Jim Ashworth, the referee, about the protests over Villa's second goal. Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said yesterday: "I welcome the swift internal disciplinary action taken by Arsenal against their players. It is clear that the interventions of Tony Adams (the club captain) and Gary Lewin (the physiotherapist) were helpful in defusing the situation."

Peter Reid, who joined Manchester City on a free transfer from Queens' Park Rangers last month, yesterday lost his appeal to the FA against a fine of £1,000 and suspension for two matches for making "foul and abusive" comments to a referee. He was additionally ordered to pay costs of £100.

The three-man commission, decided that the original decision of a large fine and suspension was correct. As a QPR player, Reid made comments to George Tyson, the referee, in the tunnel after his side had been beaten 1-0 by Manchester City at Maine Road on September 9.

Kevin Moran, the former Manchester United centre half, could be rejoining his old manager, Ron Atkinson, at Sheffield Wednesday. Moran, an Irish international, has been released by Sporting Ligon.

Paul Gascoigne, of Tottenham Hotspur, has been banned for two matches but he will serve the suspension while he is on the sidelines recovering from a broken arm sustained at Coventry 10 days ago.

The Football League has refused Bristol Rovers permission to increase the money paid to their players. Rovers wanted to amend all contracts following the £1.5 million deal which saw Nigel Martyn go to Crystal Palace and Gary Penrice to Watford.

Norwich City's FA Cup fourth-round clash with holders Liverpool at Carrow Road will be the live game shown by BBC television on Sunday January 28. Sheffield Wednesday's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Everton at Middlesbrough at Hillsborough on the same day will kick off at noon to avoid a clash.

FA Cup: Bristol Rovers v Liverpool; Norwich City v Liverpool; Rochdale v Northampton; Torquay United v Southend United; Barnet v Ipswich Town; Hereford United v Manchester United; Torquay United; Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough; Everton; Sheffield United v Walsley; Oldham Athletic v Millwall; Cambridge United; Oldham Athletic; Crystal Palace v Huddersfield Town; Arsenal v Chelsea; Watford v West Bromwich Albion; Charlton Athletic. Matches to be played January 27 or 28.

Bolton Wanderers, winners of the Sherpa Van Trophy last season, are at home to Rotherham United in the Northern Section quarter-finals of its replacement competition, the Leyland DAF Cup.

Doncaster Rovers v Doncaster; Tranmere Rovers v Chester; Bolton v Rotherham; Halifax v Stockport. Ties to be played in the week commencing January 22. The Southern Section draw will be made next week.

It had not been for the ever-present thought of £1 million plus, one could be forgiven for harbouring the notion that it was the enduring Irishman's sense of duty and his love of the game that was preventing Gerry Cooney from saying what he really thought about his return to the ring after 2½ years was part of a comeback.

But filthy lucre notwithstanding, there is a good reason for giving Cooney the benefit of the doubt and allowing him to say what he is seeking answers by facing George Foreman here on Monday night. "I'm going in there to knock him out and to see if Gerry Cooney still has anything to contribute to this game," Cooney says.

Cooney has suffered from a drink problem, and had to seek the help of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, it would be unreasonable to rule out doubts in his mind about what he is doing getting back into a game that drove him to drink and can reduce him further, in spite of all the wealth it can offer him.

It almost seems that Cooney is troubled by the thought that if he beats Foreman he will be dragged into a money-making machine, and that he will be a part of a money-making machine, and that he will be a part of a money-making machine.

That he stressed was up to the working party on the national curriculum, whose PE group is being convened.

Cooper has been sent off for tripping against Leigh last Sunday, and a suspension of any duration would keep him out of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup preliminary round match against Castleford at Knowles Road on Sunday. St Helens have a long injury list, and the loss of their leader could have proved a crippling blow.

Cooper was particularly fearful of the outcome, since he has already served one eight-match suspension this season, and had the committee found him guilty of tripping, he would have been suspended for a further eight matches.

Other decisions of the committee are due to be announced on Monday. Shane Cooper, the 21-year-old, is the star of the Bradford Northern forward, Karl Fairbank, made personal appearances last night.

ATHLETICS: International meeting: West's 1,000m; 1.4. Chalmers (GB); 400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 1,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 2,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 2,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 2,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 3,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 3,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 4,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 4,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 4,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 5,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 5,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 6,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 6,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 6,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 7,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 7,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 8,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 8,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 8,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 9,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 9,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 10,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 10,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 10,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 11,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 11,600m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 12,000m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 12,400m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 12,800m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 13,200m; 1.1. Chalmers (GB); 13,600m; 1.1. 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COMMONWEALTH GAMES: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND MAY JOIN FORCES

Billy is making up for lost time

Auckland meeting will be prelude to a drug-testing pact

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
Sydney

"And the winner of the gold medal is William Billy." The stadium applauded and Britain's discovery of a potential successor to Sebastian Coe enjoyed his moment of glory.

He would have enjoyed it more had he been introduced by his correct name: seven years after his European junior 800 metres triumph, Billy is still struggling to establish his identity.

He never caught up with Coe, but has one last chance to become, if not justify, the plans of 1983. In just over a fortnight's time Billy lines up for his debut in a senior international championship, while Coe prepares to take his bow. The Commonwealth Games in Auckland bring together Billy and Coe as England colleagues.

At least there are signs that the Billy of 1983, when he was the world's top-ranked junior, and 1984, when he won the Bisset Games in Oslo and consistently ran 1min 44sec to 1min 45sec, is returning.

An injury which he attributes to his attempt to profit from his "next Coe" reputation expunged three years of a promising career. In 1984 he ran 46 races when in normal circumstances I would have run 10." Billy, looking relaxed at the England training camp in Narbonne, just outside Montpellier, said yesterday.

"That's a disease in the knee from over-use. Money, TV, you name it, I was influenced by it. I was 19 and it was good fun to race everywhere, but it was a big mistake. It set me back three years and, though I ran in 1988, it was a waste of time because I wasn't fit."

"1989 was the first year I enjoyed for five years and everything has picked up in the last few weeks. Coe is the best athlete we have ever had in Britain but he's going to get so many favours from me. The way I'm running at the moment I'm going to surprise a few people and I reckon I've got a good chance of winning."

Apart from Coe, there is Tim McKean, the World Cup winner of Scotland, and the last significant matter of three Kenyans. "We are looking at golds in every event from 400 metres up and one-two-three in the 800 metres," the leading coach to the Kenyan team said in a television documentary recently.

"I can't see that with the likes of Coe, McKean and myself around," Billy said. "A lot has been said about the Kenyans but I see the biggest threat to me as being Coe and McKean."

If Billy sounds arrogant, suggesting that Coe and McKean are a threat to him rather than to him, with a best time of 1min 44.65sec he has a right to suggest that victory is within his grasp.

His problem, he says, is concentration. "My weakness is that I don't pay attention. I always, always stay off the pace but I'm one of the fastest finishers."

"When McKean beat Ereg [the Olympic champion] at Crystal Palace my last lap was just as fast as his but I was off the pace and wasn't prepared for them to go. At the Commonwealth Games I will just go with it and stay there."

Billy's World Student Games silver medal and his victory in the AAA championship last year were testimony to his return to the fringes of world class. The 1990 model, at the age of 26 this month, is the same determined version it was in 1983. Only the name has changed.

By John Goodbody

New Zealand and Australia have confirmed that they are joining forces to fight drug abuse in sport in the first step towards a Commonwealth-wide pact.

A meeting of Commonwealth sports ministers, in Auckland in February after the Games, will consider a three-pronged proposal drawn up by New Zealand, Australian, Canadian and British sports and medical administrators last year.

However, New Zealand and Australian officials have reiterated that they are keen to set up their own agreement as soon as possible.

Matt Marshall, director of the New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association's medical commission, said that nothing would be agreed "there and then" at the February meeting. "There was a suggestion of a quadrilateral arrangement and it will probably eventually come off. But, in my view, it would be sensible for New Zealand to enter into a bilateral agreement with our nearest neighbours, Australia."

The drug-testing programme's three points are education, out-of-competition testing, and legislation. Under the draft agreement among the four nations, all athletes in



Olympic sports would have to consent to testing outside competitions or face a ban.

New Zealand officials could ask their counterparts in Australia to test New Zealand competitors training across there. At present, competitors can escape local testing by going abroad. The agreement could also allow New Zealand to seek tests on specific Australian competitors — and vice versa — if there was any suspicion they were using banned substances.

Asked when the New Zealand-Australia agreement could be signed, Marshall said: "The Australians are very keen and we are very keen, and hopefully it will be a few months after the Games."

The climate is particularly suitable at the moment for action to be taken. Australia has recently become concerned about the problems of drug-taking following a Government inquiry into the subject. A 520-page interim report of a commission chaired by Senator John Black, who had powers to force individuals to be interviewed or face penalties, has already detailed how widespread the problem has been.

Canada has also had the Dublin investigation, set up after Ben Johnson tested positive at the Seoul Olympics. Its recommendations to the Canadian Government are expected to be published within the next two months.

In Britain, the Government is expected to announce this month that it will be the first country in the Commonwealth to make the possession of anabolic steroids, the muscle-building drug, a criminal offence unless the individual has a valid medical prescription. Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, who is scheduled to attend the meeting in Auckland, is well known for his opposition to drug-taking in sport, while this week the Sports Council announced it was setting up its own investigation into drug-taking in weightlifting.

In principle, any agreement could develop into a pact for the whole Commonwealth. But Marshall said this could present problems, as many countries had different penalties and many did not have life bans for competitors caught using certain drugs.

Several countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, have agreed to set up bilateral agreements on drug-testing.

Australians likely to dominate again

England, whose team of 21 will be the biggest national contingent racing for the 11 gold medals available in the road and track in Auckland, cannot, unfortunately, depend on numerical strength alone for success.

Competition will be fiercest for the nine track titles and new £500,000 Manukau cement bowl where Australia — who swept the board in Edinburgh four years ago — could be almost as successful again.

Since then, a men's 50-kilometre points race has been added to the track programme and, at long last, almost 32 years after gaining world championship status, women have finally been admitted to the Games and will contest a sprint and individual pursuit.

Neither Gary Niewand nor Martin Vinnicombe, the 1986 gold medal winners in the 1,000 metres sprint and the 1,000 metres time trial respectively, sought a professional career and both will defend their titles, probably successfully.

Vinnicombe, powerfully built, finished second in last year's world kilometre championship, an event for which no British rider was entered because it was decided there were no prospects of a medal.

If one of the four home countries is to take medals in the sprint or the time trial it seems most likely to be Scotland, with Eddie Alexander and Stewart Brydon, or Wales with Stuart Paulding, the British time trial champion.

The 4,000 metres team pursuit, on paper at least, appears likely to end in an Australia-England final, although New Zealand last month produced a surprise result at the Oceania Games by beating Australia in a fast time of 4min 28.26sec.

Chris Boardman, the British individual champion, will be the England pursuit team's anchor.

Morgan beat Greg Rogerson, of Australia, the reigning Commonwealth champion, to take the 10-metre platform title with 665.35 points. The performance rates alongside the dive of the Seoul Olympic gold medal winner, Greg Louganis, of the United States.

Kim White, the Great Britain diving coach, said: "Bob's dive was tremendous, real world-class stuff. To come up with the goods so close to the Games will give him a real boost and he has to be favourite for gold at the Seoul Olympics." Morgan will be joined by Olivia Clark and Peter Squares, his coach, for Wales, in New Zealand.

Replaced by the two mainstays of the European championships, Irina Parfomchuk and Valentina Ogienko, the Soviets slowed down in the next two sets but still ended up refusing to 15-0, 15-5, 15-4 victories.

What England have gained from this week's experiences is hard to measure. They have been pitched in against the world's best players and Paul Westhead, the coach, refuses to believe they will be mentally scarred by the proceedings.

"Psychologically some of the oldest players were concerned about how the young players would react this week, but we've taken something out of it," he said.

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Appeal for team nets £500,000

By John Goodbody

The final fund-raising event to send the England team to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand takes place in London tonight, with the appeal seeking record proceeds of more than £500,000.

Under the chairmanship of Rocco Forte, who has led the fund-raising efforts for the fifth successive Games, the appeal has raised £100,000 since the 1986 Games in Edinburgh. The money goes towards the costs of travel, equipment and maintenance of the team, which consists of 265 competitors and 75 officials.

George Nicholson, the appeals officer of the Commonwealth Games Council for England, said that fund raising had gone "exceptionally well", despite the fact that it was always more difficult in England than in Scotland or Wales. "The nationalisation of the English is less overt," he said.

Tonight, there will be a gala premiere of the film *Parenthood*, which is expected to lift the amount raised through *Tradehouse* Forte to more than £150,000. This has included 21 donors featuring personalities like Lord Whitelaw, Harry Carpenter, Kenny Dalglish and Cliff Morgan, and boxing events at the Royal Albert Hall.

The appeal to industry, led by Peter Stormor-Darling, the chairman of Mercury Asset Management, and Chris Nicholson, who was the three-times winner of the 1984 Games in Vancouver, raised more than £200,000. A promotion involving sponsored events in schools, supported by Olympic sports, raised another £100,000.

The names of Ben Luckwell and Wayne Rance should certainly be prominent. The Commonwealth Games, to take the 10-metre platform title with 665.35 points. The performance rates alongside the dive of the Seoul Olympic gold medal winner, Greg Louganis, of the United States.

Kim White, the Great Britain diving coach, said: "Bob's dive was tremendous, real world-class stuff. To come up with the goods so close to the Games will give him a real boost and he has to be favourite for gold at the Seoul Olympics." Morgan will be joined by Olivia Clark and Peter Squares, his coach, for Wales, in New Zealand.

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SKIING



Winning style: Frank Piccard on his way to World Cup downhill success in Schladming

Man-made surface brings out the best in Piccard

From Ray Robinson, Schladming, Austria

On a perfectly prepared piste, covered entirely in man-made snow, Frank Piccard, of France, skied into the record books with the greatest win of his career. It was his first World Cup downhill victory and the first downhill win by a Frenchman since Henri Duvillard in 1970.

Piccard rates this as his greatest skiing achievement, overriding his third place in the downhill at the Calgary Olympics and his Olympic gold medal in the super-giant slalom. "This is my day, I feel I'm up there with the world's great skiers. It's a very special feeling."

Christian Ghedina, of Italy, followed on from his third place in Val Gardena with a second place in the race. Arile Skardal, of Norway, who was the pre-race favourite, fell only two gates from the finish. The Austrian, Michael Haas, avoided serious injury after crashing in the same position but was taken to hospital for observation.

The British team was disappointed on a course that should have suited its style. Graham Bell was the best-placed Briton, finishing 37th from a starting position of 30.36sec off the lead. Ronald Duncan, finished in 46th position and Martin Bell finished 55th.

RESULTS: Downhill: 1. F Piccard (Fr), 2min 13.11sec; 2. C Ghedina (It), 2:01.62; 3. A Skardal (Nor), 2:01.78; 4. P Bell (GB), 2:01.82; 5. H Skardal (Nor), 2:01.88; 6. S Haas (Aust), 2:02.02; 7. P Piccard (Fr), 2:02.05; 8. P Bell (GB), 2:02.21; 9. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:02.27; 10. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:02.32; 11. K Hutter (Aust), 2:02.38; 12. H Huber (Swe), 2:02.58; 13. P Runggaldier (It), 2:02.70; 14. P Oerter (Aust), 2:02.72; 15. G Bell (GB), 2:02.87; 16. D Duncanson (GB), 2:02.88; 17. M Bell (GB), 2:02.94; 18. C Piccard (Fr), 2:03.05; 19. S Haas (Aust), 2:03.12; 20. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:03.18; 21. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:03.25; 22. K Hutter (Aust), 2:03.32; 23. H Huber (Swe), 2:03.38; 24. P Runggaldier (It), 2:03.45; 25. P Oerter (Aust), 2:03.52; 26. G Bell (GB), 2:03.58; 27. D Duncanson (GB), 2:03.65; 28. M Bell (GB), 2:03.72; 29. C Piccard (Fr), 2:03.78; 30. S Haas (Aust), 2:03.85; 31. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:03.92; 32. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:03.98; 33. K Hutter (Aust), 2:04.05; 34. H Huber (Swe), 2:04.12; 35. P Runggaldier (It), 2:04.18; 36. P Oerter (Aust), 2:04.25; 37. G Bell (GB), 2:04.32; 38. D Duncanson (GB), 2:04.38; 39. M Bell (GB), 2:04.45; 40. C Piccard (Fr), 2:04.52; 41. S Haas (Aust), 2:04.58; 42. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:04.65; 43. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:04.72; 44. K Hutter (Aust), 2:04.78; 45. H Huber (Swe), 2:04.85; 46. P Runggaldier (It), 2:04.92; 47. P Oerter (Aust), 2:04.98; 48. G Bell (GB), 2:05.05; 49. D Duncanson (GB), 2:05.12; 50. M Bell (GB), 2:05.18; 51. C Piccard (Fr), 2:05.25; 52. S Haas (Aust), 2:05.32; 53. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:05.38; 54. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:05.45; 55. K Hutter (Aust), 2:05.52; 56. H Huber (Swe), 2:05.58; 57. P Runggaldier (It), 2:05.65; 58. P Oerter (Aust), 2:05.72; 59. G Bell (GB), 2:05.78; 60. D Duncanson (GB), 2:05.85; 61. M Bell (GB), 2:05.92; 62. C Piccard (Fr), 2:05.98; 63. S Haas (Aust), 2:06.05; 64. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:06.12; 65. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:06.18; 66. K Hutter (Aust), 2:06.25; 67. H Huber (Swe), 2:06.32; 68. P Runggaldier (It), 2:06.38; 69. P Oerter (Aust), 2:06.45; 70. G Bell (GB), 2:06.52; 71. D Duncanson (GB), 2:06.58; 72. M Bell (GB), 2:06.65; 73. C Piccard (Fr), 2:06.72; 74. S Haas (Aust), 2:06.78; 75. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:06.85; 76. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:06.92; 77. K Hutter (Aust), 2:06.98; 78. H Huber (Swe), 2:07.05; 79. P Runggaldier (It), 2:07.12; 80. P Oerter (Aust), 2:07.18; 81. G Bell (GB), 2:07.25; 82. D Duncanson (GB), 2:07.32; 83. M Bell (GB), 2:07.38; 84. C Piccard (Fr), 2:07.45; 85. S Haas (Aust), 2:07.52; 86. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:07.58; 87. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:07.65; 88. K Hutter (Aust), 2:07.72; 89. H Huber (Swe), 2:07.78; 90. P Runggaldier (It), 2:07.85; 91. P Oerter (Aust), 2:07.92; 92. G Bell (GB), 2:07.98; 93. D Duncanson (GB), 2:08.05; 94. M Bell (GB), 2:08.12; 95. C Piccard (Fr), 2:08.18; 96. S Haas (Aust), 2:08.25; 97. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:08.32; 98. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:08.38; 99. K Hutter (Aust), 2:08.45; 100. H Huber (Swe), 2:08.52; 101. P Runggaldier (It), 2:08.58; 102. P Oerter (Aust), 2:08.65; 103. G Bell (GB), 2:08.72; 104. D Duncanson (GB), 2:08.78; 105. M Bell (GB), 2:08.85; 106. C Piccard (Fr), 2:08.92; 107. S Haas (Aust), 2:08.98; 108. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:09.05; 109. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:09.12; 110. K Hutter (Aust), 2:09.18; 111. H Huber (Swe), 2:09.25; 112. P Runggaldier (It), 2:09.32; 113. P Oerter (Aust), 2:09.38; 114. G Bell (GB), 2:09.45; 115. D Duncanson (GB), 2:09.52; 116. M Bell (GB), 2:09.58; 117. C Piccard (Fr), 2:09.65; 118. S Haas (Aust), 2:09.72; 119. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:09.78; 120. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:09.85; 121. K Hutter (Aust), 2:09.92; 122. H Huber (Swe), 2:09.98; 123. P Runggaldier (It), 2:10.05; 124. P Oerter (Aust), 2:10.12; 125. G Bell (GB), 2:10.18; 126. D Duncanson (GB), 2:10.25; 127. M Bell (GB), 2:10.32; 128. C Piccard (Fr), 2:10.38; 129. S Haas (Aust), 2:10.45; 130. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:10.52; 131. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:10.58; 132. K Hutter (Aust), 2:10.65; 133. 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K Hutter (Aust), 2:12.85; 166. H Huber (Swe), 2:12.92; 167. P Runggaldier (It), 2:12.98; 168. P Oerter (Aust), 2:13.05; 169. G Bell (GB), 2:13.12; 170. D Duncanson (GB), 2:13.18; 171. M Bell (GB), 2:13.25; 172. C Piccard (Fr), 2:13.32; 173. S Haas (Aust), 2:13.38; 174. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:13.45; 175. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:13.52; 176. K Hutter (Aust), 2:13.58; 177. H Huber (Swe), 2:13.65; 178. P Runggaldier (It), 2:13.72; 179. P Oerter (Aust), 2:13.78; 180. G Bell (GB), 2:13.85; 181. D Duncanson (GB), 2:13.92; 182. M Bell (GB), 2:13.98; 183. C Piccard (Fr), 2:14.05; 184. S Haas (Aust), 2:14.12; 185. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:14.18; 186. M Wismayer (Ger), 2:14.25; 187. K Hutter (Aust), 2:14.32; 188. H Huber (Swe), 2:14.38; 189. P Runggaldier (It), 2:14.45; 190. P Oerter (Aust), 2:14.52; 191. G Bell (GB), 2:14.58; 192. D Duncanson (GB), 2:14.65; 193. M Bell (GB), 2:14.72; 194. C Piccard (Fr), 2:14.78; 195. S Haas (Aust), 2:14.85; 196. H Tauscher (Ger), 2:14.92; 197. 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